

Two Egyptian foreign ministers quit over Sadat visit to Israel

Mr Ismail Fahmi, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and Mr Muhammad Riad, his deputy, resigned yesterday as Arab protests mounted over President Sadat's decision to visit Israel. In a letter to the President, Mr Fahmi said that he

could not carry on his duties "because of new circumstances". Meanwhile Mr Sadat announced that he would fly to Israel tomorrow and Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, postponed a visit to Britain.

Historic journey starts tomorrow

From Edward Mortimer
Damascus, Nov 17

President Sadat announced tonight that he will fly to Israel on Saturday evening for a one-day visit, despite the public disapproval of President Assad of Syria, with whom he has been holding discussions here, and the resignations of Mr Fahmi and his deputy, Mr Muhammad Riad.

The Egyptian leader had said in a press conference before leaving Damascus this morning that Mr Fahmi was the only person who knew about his plan to visit Israel before he announced it in the Egyptian Parliament last week.

However, Mr Fahmi and his staff were conspicuously absent from the presidential delegation which flew from Damascus yesterday, although hotel rooms had been booked for them and, according to one report, Mr Fahmi's baggage arrived on the presidential aircraft.

Shortly after Mr Sadat left Damascus a bomb exploded near the Egyptian Embassy here.

Mr Fahmi was appointed Foreign Minister immediately after the Middle East war in October 1973 and for a long time was strongly identified with President Sadat's American foreign policy. But since Mr Fahmi's visit to Moscow in June there had been some hints of policy differences between the two.

Recently Mr Fahmi has appeared to adopt a firmer line than the President in the procedural arguments with Israel about a reconvening of the Geneva peace conference this weekend, during the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Paris, he had the difficult task of defending Mr Sadat's highly individual policy in a pan-Arab meeting.

He apparently told his colleagues that Mr Sadat would certainly not go to Israel unless Israel first accepted the principle of total withdrawal from all occupied territories. If this is correct, it was no doubt the realisation that the difference was merely tactical, Mr



Resigned: Mr Ismail Fahmi, Egyptian Foreign Minister.



Resigned: Mr Muhammad Riad, acting Foreign Minister.

dent seriously meant to go without any preconditions that led him to resign.

The disagreement between Mr Assad and Mr Sadat was first announced by the Egyptian President at his press conference this morning. But whereas he tried to minimize its importance and suggested that the difference was merely tactical, Mr

Assad told reporters at the airport after seeing Mr Sadat off that he felt "profound sadness, especially that we are differing on a decisive issue", and said that Syria would now have to reconsider its policy very thoroughly.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes: The official Middle East News Agency reported that in a letter to President Sadat Mr Fahmi said he could not carry on his duties "because of new circumstances in the present situation".

The agency also reported Mr Riad's resignation. It said that he had earlier been asked by Mr Sadat to take over from Mr Fahmi. Mr Boutros Ghali, a Minister of State in the Cabinet, is to be acting Foreign Minister.

The invitation to visit Israel, coupled with a letter from President Carter, was handed by the United States Ambassador to Egypt to President Sadat in Ismailia this evening.

Tel Aviv: Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said he had put off his own trip to Britain, due to have started on Sunday, because of Mr Sadat's historic visit.

The news that Mr Sadat would arrive on Saturday took most Israeli officials by surprise. It had generally been expected that he would be here some time next week after Mr Begin's London visit.

A spokesman at Mr Begin's office said Mr Sadat will on Sunday call at the El Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, the third holiest shrine in Islam. After that he will go on to fulfil his wish to address a full session of the Knesset (Parliament), pending the Arab case on securing peace in the Middle East—Rover.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr Begin was in touch with his Cabinet by telephone last night and the two men agreed to postpone his visit. He will now come when a new date can be arranged, but there is no indication of when this might be.

United States admiration, page 3

Continued on page 19, column 1

from Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 17

The night-time delivery by

France of Herr Klaus Croissant,

Baader-Meinhof defence

lawyer, to the West German

authorities has brought a storm

of protest here.

As Herr Croissant was

deposited in Stuttgart prison,

Stuttgart, where three of the

Baader-Meinhof group's leaders

were officially stated to have

committed suicide last month,

in legal circles, and the left in

France demanded a total

suspension of extraditions until

the law has been reviewed.

His extradition was agreed by

the French Government yesterday

evening after the Court of

Appeal found that the West

German lawyer should be sent

back to stand trial on part of

one of the two warrants against him. Before there was

technically time to lodge an

appeal, he was on his way.

The anger in France stems

from the technicality by which

the authorities were able to

extradite him before an appeal

could be heard. As soon as the

bearing before the Court of

Appeal ended, the defence gave

notice that it would appeal to

the Supreme Court and also

proposed a hearing before the

Conseil d'Etat should the Govern-

ment agree to the extradition

decree and for the defence to

lodge its appeal.

At 8pm the decree was

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Continued on page 3, col 3

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Continued on page 3, col 3

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Hope fades of money supply being on target

By David Blake

Senior ministers are now reconciled to being almost certainly unable to bring the growth of money supply below the 13 per cent upper limit, the Government's target for this year. Instead, they intend to keep firm control over the growth of money in the coming months, even this may not be able to undo all the rapid growth caused by the intervention to keep down the value of the pound.

An important element of their "best efforts" approach towards keeping within the money supply guidelines is likely to be a decision to let interest rates rise as money growth is exceeded by rapid growth in the banking month to mid-November. By the end of the year M3 growth in sterling, which is the broadly defined money stock in which the targets are currently expressed, is likely to be around 14 to 15 per cent.

The government's hope is that financial markets will see this growth as acceptable in view of the inflows which occurred in the summer, thus upsetting calculations on which Mr Healey's 9 to 13 per cent "preferred range" was based.

Even the degree of overshoot which is expected rules out any loosening of domestic money supply in the coming month. However, to try to arrest the growth of the money supply to below 13 per cent would, it is thought, require such a rigid restriction of bank lending that it would totally destroy

Continued on page 19, column 1



Royal baby leaves hospital: The two-day-old son of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips was taken by his parents to Buckingham Palace yesterday from St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where he was born. He was warmly wrapped in a shawl against the cold. The temperature was 4°C. Captain Phillips arrived at the hospital in his Rover 3500 at 12.29 pm to fetch his wife and son. Fifteen minutes later he and his family emerged to face a barrage of flashguns and cheers from the four hundred or so well-wishers outside the hospital's private Lindo Wing. Some of the crowd had been waiting since early morning.

The baby, whose name has not yet been announced, was carried by Miss Delphine Stephens, a midwife, who was present at the birth. She handed him to Princess Anne in the car. Sister Zohra Ahroo, one of the nursing staff also involved in caring for the Princess, carried a Paddington Bear in the car. The bear, in its blue duffle coat, is the gift of a medical student. The Princess and her family left after saying goodbye to those who had nursed her.

Our Motoring Correspondent writes: The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents criticized the princess for carrying her baby in the front seat of the car and for not wearing a seat belt during the drive from the hospital.

2p rise in price of large loaf

By Hugh Clayton

Bread prices will rise by up to 2p on a large loaf and 1p on a small one next week. It will be one of the largest increases on bread since decimalization in 1971, and the first important food price rise authorized by the new Price Commission.

The commission took the unusual step of issuing a detailed statement about its decision with a sharp warning to the rest of industry not to copy its claims in the manner chosen by the commission.

Mr Charles Williams, chairman of permanent secretaries, said: "The commission disapproves of notification being aired in public. Who can say in the future whether publicity will modify the commission's attitude to a notification?"

Bakers said earlier in the month that they needed a rise of at least 2p on a large loaf, for which one of the main culprits would be EEC farm

prices. The latest paper to be circulated among members of Sir Douglas Allen's committee concerns the inadequacy of present-day "weeding" procedures. Drafted by Sir John Hunt, Secretary of the Cabinet, its forceful arguments have made an impact in Whitehall during the past week, as the permanent secretaries begin to make up their minds about future reform.

It was the bakers who cut their prices by 2p, not the commission. They decided that the rise in the value of sterling had reduced the cost of imported wheat enough to make the loaf cheaper.

Although the legal limit on a large wrapped loaf will rise to 26p, most will cost much less than that.

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Whip on EEC Bill angers Labour MPs

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HOME NEWS

Ministry to pursue appeal that may deprive handicapped boy of mobility allowance

By Craig Seton

The Department of Health and Social Security is to press ahead with an appeal that, if successful, will deprive a Worcester family of a mobility allowance for their severely handicapped son. It is a test case crucial to many other parents of children with similar disabilities and may eventually reach the High Court.

It centres on Robert Edmunds, aged 12, who has Down's Syndrome, a mental handicap with frequent physical implications. He is described as hyperactive, has a mental age of two and will walk only a few yards before sitting down.

Mr Peter Walker, Conservative MP for Worcester, has taken up the case and is particularly concerned that in their attempts to fight the department, Mr and Mrs Ernest Edmunds, the boy's parents, do not qualify for legal aid. Free legal advice has saved them from fees more than £500.

Mr Walker described the case yesterday as appalling. On Tuesday he will ask Mr Morris, Minister for the Disabled, a Commons question on his policy towards providing mobility allowances for children with Down's Syndrome.

Mr Morris yesterday would only say that it was "both a very distressing and important test case".

The family's campaign started in September, 1976, when their first application for the £5 weekly mobility allowance was rejected. An appeal to a medical tribunal in January last year was granted, but it May the department applied for leave to appeal.

The medical appeal tribunal refused the application in July, saying it was entirely satisfied that the boy should have the allowance. Much to the sur-



Mr and Mrs Edmunds try to interest their son, Robert, in a book.

prise of Mr and Mrs Edmunds, the department applied to the National Insurance Commission for leave to appeal and that was granted in September.

Mrs Edmunds said yesterday that the outcome of the department's persistence in fighting the case no mobility allowance had been paid. "I am like a pawn in a game and nobody has explained how I shall play the rules," she said.

Her son, she said, needed her constant attention. The

family, which also includes a daughter, Lisa, aged 17, lived on a small income and had no financial means to fight the case.

It was understood that the boy's case it will be argued that although he is able to walk frequently he refuses to do so. Because of his low mental age, it is apparently accepted that such a refusal cannot be regarded as an act of conscious will, and that issue will be at the centre of the legal argument.

The department on the ground that the criteria for mobility allowance awards clearly state that

Equal rights woman to challenge dismissal

By Annabel Ferriman

The Equal Opportunities Commission, which has helped 40 women to take their employers before industrial tribunals, is itself to be taken before a tribunal by one of its former employees.

Dr Eileen Byrne, who was dismissed last week from her job as head of the commission's education section, which has 11 members, said yesterday that she would appeal.

She was dismissed after she had spoken to a reporter on *The Times Educational Supplement* about a confidential report, not leaked by her, critical of the commission. She was quoted as criticising the report, produced by the Home Office and the Civil Service Department, for its recommendation that the education department's role should be reduced.

Miss Barry Lockwood, chairman of the commission, wrote to the newspaper, saying that the remarks attributed to Dr Byrne did not reflect the commission's views. Dr Byrne also wrote saying she had no recollection of making the remarks, but the newspaper is standing by its report.

The Civil Service and Home Office report is also understood to criticize some members of the commission staff for letting their commitment to the cause of women interfere with their work.

The commissioners are thought to be worried about the report.

The two-year term of office of the commissioners, excluding the chairman and deputy chairman, expires next month.

It is understood that 11 are willing to continue serving, but that Mr Alexander Nicol and Mrs Caroline Woodroffe intend to leave.

As the strike continued more signs of bitterness emerged.

Fire officers withdrew from the control centre of Derby fire headquarters and troops took their place.

Mr Michael Bodl, county chairman of the National Association of Fire Officers, said:

"The special dispensation given to officers to cross the picket lines at our headquarters to man the control room has been withdrawn."

By doing so we shall be more able to maintain a regular stand.

The 12 officers who man the control room are now available to give the troops advice.

Since the dispute began 12 officers have worked in three shifts for 24 hours.

Fifteen striking firemen from Huntingdon brigade headquarters have been banned from having their Christmas dinner at a country public house. They

Strain is telling on soldier-firemen

As the firemen's strike entered its fourth day yesterday the strain of tackling outbreaks with out-of-date and inadequate equipment was telling on the soldiers doing the men's jobs.

An officer said: "Our lads are getting very tired and we are worried that exhaustion will mean mistakes and some of our men will get killed."

In London alone troops have dealt with more than 130 fires since the strike began.

In the North-east soldiers fought two big fires yesterday. The first occurred at a supermarket at Bedlington, Northumberland, after a gas explosion. Flames spread to an ex-Servicemen's club next door.

About fifty troops with four appliances were helped by the police. The fire burnt out in about three hours but both buildings were badly damaged.

A second big fire started at a farm at Hebron, Northumberland, after a haystack had caught alight.

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Inventive pupils praised by minister

By Alan Hamilton

A schoolchild who can design a vandal-proof telephone kiosk, or a central heating system for bird cages, or a lighting system for discotheques, is just as gifted and socially valuable as one who can pass examinations, Mr Oakes, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, believes.

Yesterday he presented prizes to winners of a schools design competition sponsored by the Design Council and the General Electric Company. Besides the kiosk and the heating and lighting systems, winning entries from pupils aged from 13 upwards included a safety system for playgrounds, and a pneumatic yacht sail.

Mr Oakes told winners, their parents and teachers that the basic skills needed to cope with both life and work were normally taken to be literacy and numeracy, but visual awareness and the ability to make things were of great importance in the national battle for reconstruction.

A school curriculum encyclopaedia with a notion of scholarship meant that drawing and making were subtly devalued by being relegated to the state of pastimes.

Society's infatuation with prestige, white collars and clean hands had resulted in a widespread belief that a good education meant a wholly scholastic one. At the same time some teachers believed that informal, almost anti-academic, methods were best.

It is high time we got rid of the outdated rubbish that relates social prestige to employment in a way that is strongly reminiscent of the caste system; anyone who uses his hands to earn a living is quite definitely among the pariahs.

There have been five fire deaths in Ulster since the strike began, but army and police sources say that none could have been prevented by the regular firemen. All the victims were children and in the case of one, a girl killed on Tuesday night, the police believe a petrol bomb was involved.

The two children who died in their house in the Falls area of Belfast early yesterday were Robert Finnegan, aged two, and his sister, Liza, aged 10 months. A few hours earlier two sisters, Gracielle and Brionagh Porter, aged 12 and 10, died after being trapped in the upstairs bedroom of a blazing house in Bambridge, co

Wexford.

It is considered vital that in pricing it initially the review body must be free of the constraints of pay policy, such as a tight 10 per cent limit.

Negotiators say the review body must seek to correct anomalies between consultants and junior hospital doctors, other professionals, and the population as a whole.

It is hoped that agreement will be reached by consultants in time for the review of salaries next April, but it may not be priced until the following year.

Basically, the new contract provides for 10 optional half days (NOHDS) of 3½ hours a week. Eight would be regular rostered sessions, one for administrative duties and committee work and one for continuing responsibility for patients and departments. An option for agreed additional sessions would be built in.

A clause is written in to safeguard existing contracts. It is felt that a full-time consultant moving to the new contract would almost automatically be needed for two extra sessions and would therefore be paid for 12 NOHDS.

There is also a banding system under which extra payment would be made for being called at night and a "recall fee" if the consultant had to attend a hospital in an emergency.

The contract seeks better allowances for the use of cars and telephones. No agreement has been reached on distinction awards, under which groups of consultants qualify for extra payments.

Results:

Gross pay, children over 13 and under 16, £1,170; children under 13, £1,000; Dick, Large Ac, pneumatic soil system; Stenner, Tors, Intergrate circuit breaker; Stephen Green, growing trees; four boys from Turnfitt, Ac, cooling water bows from Duffield S., North Humber, vane, vane repair, Poclain, vane, a certificate and each school £50.

Wednesday 1 Nov: Stuart McFarlane, engineer, £1,170; John G. Smith, engineer, £1,100; Cuthbert, Houn, S., Lincoln, general purpose, £1,100; Birmingham, general purpose, £1,100; Birmingham, play table, for bed-bound children; four boys from Turnfitt, Ac, cooling water bows from Duffield S., North Humber, vane, vane repair, Poclain, vane, a certificate and each school £50.

Dead family named

The people killed in a collision between a car and a lorry on the A1 near Arden, Borders, on Wednesday were Mr Robert Hurton, aged 40; his wife, Ruth, aged 40; and Mrs Hilda Spence, aged 70, her mother, all of George Street, Bowburn, co Durham.

Tory chief resigns

Mr William Clark, MP for Craydon, South, who resigned yesterday as a deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, is not to be replaced, Mrs Thatcher says.

Risk of going too far, page 14

Ministers are 'consistent' on invalid tricycles

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Several ministers have been cleared of the accusation that they misled the public over the real reasons for phasing out the invalid tricycle. But Sir Idwal Pugh, Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman), in his findings accept that most tricycle drivers are concerned when "official" statements appear to give conflicting accounts and thus cause uncertainty.

He says that the departments are following a consistent line. He has confirmed the Secretary of State's undertaking to rationalise vehicle in about five years' time "as his aim to ensure that no beneficiary of the present scheme is made

Consultants' contract 'would encourage NHS work'

By John Roper

Health Services

Correspondent

The present division between full-time and part-time consultants working in the National Health Service will be dropped soon, the new contract will contain discussions on which should be completed by the end of this month.

After working a set number of sessions for the NHS, a consultant would be free to do further sessions for additional payment, tackle private practice, or give his time to anything else.

Mr Rooker was chiefly concerned that the Government was relying on the inability of the tricycle to meet European safety regulations when his own research disclosed that they did not apply to three-wheel vehicles and were not mandatory on member states.

The new contract will have to be put to the profession and is likely to lead to long debate. A referendum on views is likely on whether to accept it. It will then have to be priced by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration.

Although the consultants' leaders avoid describing their

Electrical union bars steel strike leader

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Mr Wyn Bevan, leader of the unofficial strike of electricians that crippled production at British Steel's Port Talbot plant in the spring, has been barred from attending his union's conference as a delegate.

The biennial conference of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union being held in Blackpool next week is expected to show up once again the divisions between left and right over policy and politics. Millions of branches are seeking to elect their own communists holding office in the union and will ask for rule changes that will make conference decisions binding on

the leadership.

Mr Bevan, aged 39, was a left-wing candidate for executive council membership against the incumbent moderate, Mr Bernard Clarke, two years ago. After a reorganisation of branches his election as delegate to conference has been declared invalid, and the motion he sought to move calling for an end of branch amalgamations without the consent of members has not been put on the agenda.

"I shall be there lecturing, and there will be an attempt to get the issue debated through a challenge to standing orders," he said last night.

The Bevan case is a microcosm of the simmering political discontent within the union. In

Thursdays.

Risk of going too far, page 14

Cardiff, a branch has been disbanded by the executive because of "irregularities" and its delegates to the conference, Mr Bill Williams, a Trotskyist, has also been barred. He stood for the EETPU general secretary against Mr Frank Chapple.

Mr Bevan is taking legal advice over being barred, and the left's campaign over his case and the policy conduct of the union since the last conference was held in mid-1975 is likely to provoke further wrangling.

Mr Chapple is to address delegates on Wednesday, and Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, will do so on

Thursday.

See: page 14.

Today

Sun rises: 7.24 am Sun sets: 4.8 pm

Moon rises: Moon sets: 1.5 pm 12.25 am tomorrow

Full Moon: November 25

Lightning: 4.25 pm 5.75 am

High water: London Bridge, 6.45 am, 6.45 pm (20.5ft); 7.23 pm, 6.55 am (21.2ft)

Avonmouth, 12.3 am, 11.15 pm (36.3ft); 12.41 pm, 11.15 am (36.3ft)

Dover, 4.6 am, 6.06 pm (19.7ft); 4.57 pm, 5.70 pm (18.8ft)

Fulham, 11.39 am, 6.40 pm (20.8ft); 11.47 pm, 6.46 pm (20.9ft)

Liverpool, 4.26 am, 7.95 pm (26.3ft); 4.32 pm, 8.26 pm (26.3ft)

A cold N. airstream persists, with troughs moving into Britain from NW.

See: page 14.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTs Warm Cold Occluded

Clouds sky: br=blue, cloudbreaks: c=cloudy, cu=cloudy, d=dark, f=fog, h=heavy rain, m=moderate rain, n=light rain, o=rain, p=precipitation, r=rainbow, s=snow, t=turbo, u=undercast, w=wind, x=wind gusts, y=wind squalls, z=wind gusts with snow.

English Channel (E), St George's Channel (E), St. George's Channel (E), St. George's Channel (E), St. George's Channel (E), St. George's Channel

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HOME NEWS

The Queen invites her most meritorious

By Philip Howard

The Queen set a pretty precedent yesterday by inviting the 24 people whom she has selected personally as the most distinguished in her kingdom to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Order of Merit with her.

The order was founded by her great-grandfather in 1902 on the occasion of his coronation. It had been the idea of the Prince Consort, on the model of Frederick the Great's Order pour le Mérite; but its inauguration was frustrated in the later years of Queen Victoria by Lord Salisbury.

Although it confers no title, and has no robes, the Order of Merit is the most distinguished of all orders, since it has always been in the personal gift of the Sovereign. It is never awarded for political services, and politicians are not consulted.

Membership is restricted to 24 men and women, subjects of the Crown, whom the Queen considers to have given exceptionally meritorious service in the Armed Services or towards



Members of the Order of Merit photographed in the Music Room of Buckingham Palace after a service of thanks in the Chapel Royal, St James's

Palace. Standing, left to right: Lord Todd, Mr J. B. Priestley, Lord Hinton of Banksyde, Sir Alan Hodgkin, Sir George Edwards, Lord Penney, Sir Isaiah Berlin,

Mr Harold Macmillan, Lord Clark, Sir Wedgwood, Sir William Walton, Professor Ronald Syme, Sir Frederick Ashton, Sir Dorothy Hodgkin, Mr Graham Sutherland, The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Mr Henry Moore, Lord Mountbatten of Burma, Lord Zuckerman and Mr Malcolm Macdonald.

It was the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Order of Merit.

the advancement of art, literature, and science.

Twenty-one of them arrived for the service of thanksgiving in Henry VIII's Chapel Royal in St James's Palace and lunch in Buckingham Palace afterwards. The two senior British members of the order, Mr Graham Sutherland (1950) and Mr Henry Moore (1953), turned out with Mr J. B. Priestley and the other new boys who received it this year. Sir William Walton came to

London from Ischia, especially for this first reunion of OMs. The two woman members, Dame Veronica Wedgwood and Professor Dorothy Hodgkin, were present (the only previous female holder of the order was Florence Nightingale, a sorry comment on estimation of merit until recently).

It was an intimate family occasion in the pretty Tudor chapel that has been the cradle of English church music, with

row of the cleverest old faces in the United Kingdom sat opposite the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The Duke of Edinburgh was appointed to the order in 1968 as a recognition of his achievements in scientific and other fields.

The only other living person to have received the honourable peak of holding both OM and Order of the Garter (also in the Queen's personal gift, with

out advice) is the heavily decorated Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Mountbatten of Burma, who also was present.

The music, composed by such holders of the order as Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten, and William Walton, was sumptuous, featuring by the six gentlemen and 10 children of the Chapel Royal, worthy descendants of the intrepid "chapels" of singers of the medieval Kings.

The Duke of Edinburgh read

the lesson from Ecclesiasticus, such as Churchill and Attlee, for distinction above and beyond the call of politics. Mr Harold Macmillan, who was there yesterday, is the only living statesman holder of the order, which has the advantage of recognizing merit without taking away from such reluctant recipients of honours the privilege of remaining com-mouers.

To date there have been 132 members of the order, the most eminent men of letters, art, science and war of our century. They have even occa-

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Some pessimists persuade themselves that we live in an age of decline and demerit. Yesterday's congregation of holders of the CM proved them wrong.

SNP devolution campaign will be of general election proportions

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh

The Scottish National Party is to campaign for a "yes" vote in Scotland's devolution referendum with all the energy of a general election campaign.

The party's strategy committee, which has for once lost the tactical initiative in the argument over reshaping Scotland's political future, will meet tomorrow to consider how to mobilize the formidable party organization to campaign in favour of accepting the devolution Bill.

Many nationalists are distinctly cool towards the proposed assembly structure, which they feel is hardly relevant to the party's aim of independence.

Small revolt on 'guillotine'

In Thursday's division on "guillotine" measures to limit debate on the two devolution Bills Labour MPs who voted against the Scottish guillotine measure were:

Mr Abse (Pontypool), Mr Cunningham (Wellingborough South and Finsbury), Mr M. J. Lee (West Bromwich), Mr A. Evans (Blyth), Mr Lathom (Wallasey), Mr Leitch (Hartlepool), Mr Moonman (Bridgend), Mr Mendelson (Penistone), Mr Phipps (Dudley, West).

Labour MPs who abstained were:

Mr Brown (Blackley, South and Stretford), Mr Ryan (Blyth), Mr Lewis (Newham North West), Mr Lomas (Huddersfield, West), Mr Spearing (Newham, South).

Tories back campaign against Front

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Conservative leadership has supported a campaign to take on the National Front head-on. It was launched yesterday by the Federation of Conservative students with Mr Whitelaw, the party's deputy leader, speaking on home affairs, giving a warning against turning easily disposed minorities into martyrs by seeking to ban views lawfully expressed.

Agreeing with the line taken by the students that the Front's arguments have to be exposed and answered by rational argument, he urged them to take their campaign beyond the confines of universities, polytechnics and colleges. Margaret Thatcher, my colleagues in the Shadow Cabinet and I pledge to you our full support."

Speaking in the old theatre of the London School of Economics, which was decorated by anti-Front posters, he said: "We have a responsibility to help those in our society who face special disadvantages. This is not, as some people have argued, the same as giving an unfair amount of aid to certain groups."

"What we want, and must do, is to remove the extra disadvantages that certain groups labour under, so that they can start off as equals with everyone else in our society. Once we have removed those extra disadvantages then there is no question of giving them at that point more help than the rest of the community. That would be unfair."

While insisting that there should be no concessions to racial or religious discrimination, he continued: "Nor must we treat arrogantly the genuine minorities that many people feel about having to absorb in a relatively brief period of time people from very different cultures. I believe that there is no more certain way of driving people who are not racialists into the arms of the National Front than by blandly pretending that genuine social problems do not exist."

His speech supported the inclusion of questions designed to identify people's ethnic origins in the next official census, so as to obtain an accurate picture of the difficulties their communities face.

Asked if the campaign would signal any change in the party's attitude towards immigration, he said he believed in firm and fair policies. But simply calling for an end to immigration was deceptively easy.

Referendum concessions in exchange for MPs' votes

From Our Own Correspondent

Wales is confident that Plaid Cymru would be crushingly defeated in such a poll.

Mr Neil Kinnock, MP for South Wales, said last night he was confident the Welsh people would bury the devolution Bill in a referendum.

Plaid Cymru said it would support the Government's Wales Bill even though it was resentful that powers offered to Wales were less than for Scotland.

They are understood to have indicated to Mr Foot their reluctance to vote with the Government unless ministers were granted the same right to speak against devolution as they were during the EEC referendum.

The M.P.s also insisted that any statement assuring that Wales should remain a part of the United Kingdom should be dropped from the introduction to the referendum. They regarded the assertion as contentious.

Mr Donald Wiltshire, chairman of the Welsh Conservative Party, said his organization would continue to resist the measure.

Leading article, page 15

Beer crate held up bed at motel, judge told

Mrs Dent said that a beer crate was used for the six-leg double bed involved in the present case because the motel had run out of Schaeffer and Babycham crates, which it usually used. The beer crate raised the bed to a higher level than the others did.

Mr Justice Cusack asked if the use of crates as bed legs was general at Grand Metropolitan Hotels. "One hopes not," Mr Dent replied, "but it appears it was very extensive at this motel at that time."

A senior lecturer or reader's salary would be between £9,765 and £12,288 instead of £6,643 and £7,951; and the average professorial salary £14,860 instead of £9,483.

Duncan Campbell, aged 24, a freelance journalist, who faces charges under the Official Secrets Act, was a "ferret", not a "skunk", Mr Geoffrey Robertson, his counsel, said at Tottenham Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday.

Mr Campbell, of Franklin Road, Brighton, appears with John Aubrey, aged 31, a reporter on *Time Out*, magazine, of De Beauvoir Road, Hackney, London, and John Ashley Berry, aged 33, a former corporal with the Signals Regiment, Intelligence Corps and now a social worker, of Alexandra Park Road, Wood Green, London.

Mr Campbell is charged with obtaining from Mr Berry informa-

BBC to implement £11m pay offer

By a Staff Reporter

Labour MPs who reluctantly voted for the Bill will fight it at the referendum stage. Taking their example from Mr Robin Cook, Labour MP for Edinburgh Central, they seem to agree that it would be better for the unity of Britain if devolution was put against the wall by the Scots themselves.

A "No" vote would be immensely crippling for the SNP, setting back its hopes for big constitutional change in Scotland many years. That is perhaps the strongest reason for rallying those nationalists who consider a less than powerful assembly irrelevant to the party's main aim.

A serious anomaly that dissenting MPs will exploit in the campaign against the Bill is the fact that 71 Scottish MPs would be able to vote on all English matters but English members would not be able to vote on the devolved questions in Scotland.

Mr George Robertson, Labour Party chairman in Scotland, yesterday denounced the Scottish National Party for its cynical approach. If the Government had made the Commons guillotine motion on Wednesday an issue of confidence, he said the SNP would have voted against it to force a general election. "We consider this an act of the gravest cynicism for a party that has declared itself strongly in support of devolution but would nevertheless seek to bring the Government down for short-term electoral advantage."

and that was the wish of most of the staff.

In its negotiations with the recognized unions the BBC has made it clear that it cannot make an offer that exceeds the Government's 10 per cent on the corporation's annual pay bill, and increases in basic rates will range from 10.9 to 15 per cent. Certain minor improvements have been made.

It is understood the decision was made, although more money has been sought by the BBC's biggest staff union, the Association of Broadcasters and Allied Staffs, in order to make the increases available.

It applies to monthly-paid staff from October 1, to weekly and part-time clerical staff from August 7 and to catering staff from November 3.

In a statement the BBC said it was not denying any of the recognized unions the opportunity of further negotiations on pay and conditions of employment. But it believed that it was important to pay the increases before Christmas,

Woman stayed in bedroom 16 years

From Tim Jones

Aberdare

The condition of a woman who stayed in her bare bedroom for 16 years before she succeeded in getting out by the existence of Miss Powell.

"They are all of low intelligence, but Mrs Jean Williams seems the most responsible," he said.

Mrs Williams said that when their parents died in 1960 Miss Powell, aged 54, of Alma Street, weighed only 61 stone.

She lay in a tiny dark bedroom, her skull exposed above the floor with lice in her hair, and the bone protruding through the flesh of her hip. There were traces of excretion on the floor and the windows were cracked open. Her only heat was a small torch.

Colonel Treacher, the Coroner, recorded a verdict of death by hypostatic pneumonia, multiple pressure sores, a kidney disease and lack of care, indicating that he had come close to considering that there might have been cause to proceed with manslaughter charges against the woman's sister, Mrs

Williams.

It was stated that before she died earlier this year Miss Powell had been bedridden for 16 years before she had never been aware of the existence of Miss Powell.

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HOME NEWS

Architect with an eye for landscapes is honoured as planner

By John Young

Planning Reporter

Sir Frederick Gibberd, one of the most innovative and versatile of twentieth-century British architects, has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Town Planning Institute; it was announced yesterday.

Sir Frederick, who will be 70 next January, is only the ninth recipient of the award since it was instituted in 1953. His predecessors include Sir Patrick Abercrombie, Mr Lewis Mumford, Lord Holford, Sir Frederick Osborn and Sir Colin Buchanan.

Among Sir Frederick's best known buildings are the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Liverpool, the Central London Mosque in Regent's Park, and the International hotel at Hyde Park Corner. He also undertook the difficult and long delayed reconstruction of Caversham Bridge, behind the original Nash Grade.

More controversially, he was responsible for the as yet uncompleted Kielder dam in Northumberland and for the terminal buildings at Heathrow. He says that, in the airport's early days, he voiced doubts about restricting expansion by placing the terminals within the intersections of the main runways, but was told that as the architect his job was to concentrate on the buildings.

It must have been a difficult pill to swallow, for Sir Frederick has always emphasised that town planning and architecture are inseparable. He became involved in town planning, he says, because of his convictions about the importance of the effect of buildings on their environment and vice versa.

It is as a planner that he is being honoured by the institute, and it as a planner that he may well be longest remembered. His most outstanding achievement is probably Harlow



Sir Frederick Gibberd: Planned Harlow New Town

New Town, for which he prepared the master plan 30 years ago. He still lives in Harlow, opened the first office in the town centre and is closely involved in its continuing development.

His feeling for landscape as well as architecture helped to create a physical layout that is widely regarded as the most striking of all the new towns. It was also one of the pioneers of conservation and an outstanding advocate of the need for sensitive redevelopment in historic town centres; his achievements in places as diverse as Doncaster and Stratford-on-Avon, Banbury and Leamington, though not without their critics, have been widely commended.

With his luxuriant moustache and tweed suits, he conveys something of the character of a latter-day Restoration Gentleman in the Elgar tradition. He lists his recreation as gardening, to which might be added collecting English watercolours and, apparently, enjoying life.

Most governments 'want air fares regulated'

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Cooperation rather than confrontation with the scheduled airlines was desirable in developing an acceptable structure of European fares, the Civil Aviation Authority has concluded after submissions to it over three days by airlines and other interested parties.

The hearings took place in London in January, and in a discussion document based on published evidence, the authority said that although it might be argued that airlines should be allowed the same freedom of pricing as any other commercial enterprise, most governments had decided that air fares on scheduled services should be regulated.

"It is not possible for a major aviation country like the United Kingdom to stand aside, alone, from such a regulated environment."

The authority said it saw no reason in principle why the structure and levels of air fares should not closely reflect the costs of providing each kind of facility offered by the airlines to the public.

Such a close relationship between fares and costs must surely be in the best interests of consumers, who should, as far as possible, pay the full cost, but no more, of providing the facilities they demanded.

It followed also that consumers should not be obliged to buy unsolicited facilities when they wanted and were willing to pay for.

One of the more sensational submissions to the hearings in January was that by the Airline Users' Committee to the effect that on the London-Malaga route there were 30

different fares, leading to confusion among travel agents and to high marketing and administration costs by airlines.

The discussion document commented: "It must be recognised that, in the real world, extreme simplicity will never be feasible." Provided they were related to costs, the use of seasonal pricing structures, off-peak and stand-by rates reflected the consumer.

The document was also largely dismissive of unfounded comparisons made at the hearings between European and United States airline fares and costs. The evidence did suggest that United States costs and fares were lower than those of British Airways, "although the differences were much smaller than is often suggested by crude comparison".

The authority was conscious of an unacceptable degree of cross-subsidisation between first-class and other fare categories. It intended to give further consideration to a practical solution to the problem, "including possible changes to the first-class product".

Among the scheduled airlines in Europe the regulatory system restricted entry, and there was so effective price competition for normal short-haul fares. The use of market rates rather than charter fares was therefore denied effective choice and was at risk of being charged more than the cost of the service he used.

"The regulatory authority, which has power to restrict competition in this way, must therefore ensure that this does not occur."

European Air Fares: a discussion document (Civil Aviation Authority, PO Box 41, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL7 7JS).

Appeal for more arts broadcasts

Sir Claus Moser, chairman of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, appealed yesterday for urgent Arts Council action to ensure widespread broadcasting of the performing arts on television and radio (our Music Reporter writes).

"It is the whole question of arts for the people. We want to perform to millions", he said.

Annual report, page 12

Analysis of shop stewards

The department of adult Education at Hull University is examining the motivation, characteristics and experience of shop stewards in British industry.

Six companies and the Transport and General Workers' Union have agreed to cooperate in the three-year project.

Raymond Aron

David Walker talks to Raymond Aton, Judith Judd interviews Asa Briggs and Lorraine Taylor plays host to the Marxist in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.

Corrections

Mr R. M. Lewis, who was described as Chief Probation Officer for Kent in an article on Marxists in higher education on Tuesday, is senior probation officer.

The Morning Star is not £16,000 in debt as stated on Monday but has a projected deficit of that amount for next year. A proposed price increase from January 3, 1978, is expected to yield £14,000 extra income.

Concern at effect of job scheme on grants

By Diana Geddes

Mr Norman St John-Stevens, MP, opposition spokesman on education, and the National Union of Students have independently decided to call on the Government to set up a working party on discretionary awards for students.

Both are concerned about the effect that the proposed allowance of £18 a week for young people on the youth opportunities programme courses will have on other students in further education who are not eligible for mandatory grants.

The National Union of Students, which lobbied MPs at Westminster yesterday, says that 300,000 students, or 90 per cent of full-time further education students on non-advanced courses receive no grant at all. The other 10 per cent receive £2.22 a week.

The union wants a government working party to lay down a framework for further education students to win parity with those receiving £18 a week under the youth opportunities programme. It also wants the Secretary of State for Education to propose legislation giving her enabling powers to designate students that would carry an entitlement to a mandatory grant.

Mandatory grants are given for full-time or sandwich degree courses or for any course that has been officially designated as comparable to a first-degree course; for full or part-time initial teacher training courses; and for courses leading to higher national diplomas.

With his luxuriant moustache and tweed suits, he conveys something of the character of a latter-day Restoration Gentleman in the Elgar tradition. He lists his recreation as gardening, to which might be added collecting English watercolours and, apparently, enjoying life.

It is as a planner that he is being honoured by the institute, and it as a planner that he may well be longest remembered. His most outstanding achievement is probably Harlow

Disabled soldier's benefit suspension 'wrong, abrupt and arbitrary'**Ombudsman finds more complaints justified**

By David Nicholson-Lord

Nearly half the complaints investigated by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman) from May to July have been upheld by him, a sizable increase on the previous quarter and running well above the levels of last year.

Of the 64 complaints of maladministration investigated by the Ombudsman, Sir Idwal Pugh, 31 were upheld. That compares with 23 out of 77 in the quarter from February to April and an overall level of 43 per cent in 1976, itself a 6 per cent increase on the previous year.

Cases of maladministration brought to light in Sir Idwal's fifth report, for the 1976-77 parliamentary session, published yesterday, include that of a former soldier who suffered a psychiatric breakdown after witnessing

the death of a young girl caught in crossfire between his unit and a group of terrorists, and left the Army as a result.

The incident took place in 1966, since when the report says, the individual's disability has meant that he has worked for a total of only three years. In October, 1976, his invalidity benefit was suspended without notice by the Department of Health and Social Security, leaving his wife without money to buy food for their three children.

Sir Idwal describes the decision as made by a local office as wrong, abrupt and arbitrary and adds that he fully sympathises with the distress it caused. The department had since apologised and issued an invalidity order book.

As in previous reports, a high proportion of the complaints involve the DHSS and the Inland Revenue. Twelve of the 21 claims against the Inland Revenue and nine of the 17 against the DHSS were wholly or partly upheld.

They include a pensioner suddenly faced with a bill for £167 underpayment of tax, accumulated solely because of Inland Revenue mishandling, and a former journalist, now in his seventies, who was presented with a bill for £896 because of Education publicity to leave a job he had been in for 29 years unable to go to college, but was then unable to find employment in teaching.

In both instances, Sir Idwal expresses sympathy but comes down in favour of the government departments.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, Fifth Report for 1976-77 (Stationery Office, £2.60).

In brief**'Poor service' in supermarkets**

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, opposition spokesman on prices and consumer protection, said yesterday that it was time to protest against poor service in supermarkets.

"Standards in this country are nowhere near United States levels," she said at the annual luncheon of the British Frozen Food Federation in London. "All too often over here one has to trawl from one shop to another to find the most ordinary item in the make, size and variety that one wants."

Vets attack park ban on dogs

Plans by local authorities to ban dogs from parks and other public places because of the threat of *Toxocara canis*, a worm found in puppies that can infect people, were attacked by the British Veterinary Association yesterday.

It described the ban, which has been enforced at Burnley, Lancashire, as an overreaction.

Stop pampering, police chief says

Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, said yesterday that society must stop pampering those who bite the hands that feed them. He was giving a lecture at Preston Polytechnic.

"It is time we put people before political machinations, dubious principles and the new god of bureaucracy", he said.

£18,000 promise to Wordsworth appeal

From Our Correspondent

The trustees of Dove Cottage, Grasmere, where the great Wordsworth museum and library are housed, have been promised £18,000 by the Victoria and Albert Museum towards the money they are seeking to buy the recently discovered Wordsworth and Coleridge manuscripts for the National Trust.

In July, Cornell University bought the hitherto unknown manuscripts, which include love letters between Wordsworth and his wife, at Sotheby's auction for £38,500. Last week the Reviewing Committee

of the Export of Works of Art, suspended the issue of an export licence for four months to enable a British institution to match the purchase price.

The Dove Cottage trustees launched a public appeal, with the help of a letter in *The Times* on November 12, to enable them to buy the manuscripts from Cornell before the extra time is up, on February 5.

Mr Jonathan Wordsworth, chairman, said: "The Victoria and Albert has responded to our appeal by promising us £18,000 from one of the grant funds it administers. We are delighted of

Heritage award gold medal for National Trust

The achievements of the National Trust have been recognized internationally with the award of the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Gold Medal, which will be presented at a reception in London today (our Planning Reporter writes).

The FVS Foundation of Hamburg, which has made the award, commands the trust for "the splendid example it has set for the whole of Europe in the conservation of the architectural heritage and landscape of the British Isles".

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PARLIAMENT, November 17, 1977

Mistake admitted over suspected terrorist who was allowed to leave UK: false passport used

House of Commons

It was by mistake, not by design, that a man, said by Conservative MP to be the suspected kidnapper of three prominent North Yemenis in London, who had allegedly participated at the Mogadishu hijacking, was allowed to reenter Britain after being deported and then allowed to leave again, Mr. Mervyn Rees, Home Secretary, said.

Mr. Jonathan Aitken (East Thanet, C) had asked if he was satisfied with his department's contingency plans and measures for dealing with terrorist activity.

Mr. Rees (Leeds, South, Lab.)—These are kept under continuous review in the light of intelligence and other information regarding terrorist activities and incidents.

Mr. Aitken—Would Mr. Rees consider having talks with the terrorists of the media to try to contain the violence? In view of what has been said about the way these terrorist episodes are sometimes publicised?

Is he aware that the whole of the recent German commando rescue operation at Mogadishu could have been seriously put at risk by the decision to ban the terrorist organisations from publishing advance information about the commando unit's movements in defiance of a request by the German Government?

Could we try to take steps to ensure it does not happen again?

Mr. Rees—There is no doubt that we will make representations to the press in general with the media. All I have to say with regard to that is yes, I will do more.

Mr. Charles Fletcher-Cooke (Darwen, C)—Will he say some-

thing about his recent meetings with the ministers of the interior of the EEC? Is it right that those ministers meet regularly? Is he satisfied with the degree of harmonization of administrative arrangements, as well as those of the standards and ratification of the conventions to deal with this urgent problem?

Mr. Rees—There are various methods of cooperation between countries, particularly within the EEC. I chaired a meeting early last year when we talked about what should be done. All the ministers were quite properly mentioned.

Schemes prepared must be sufficiently flexible to deal with incidents that might not arise in the way an exercise was held.

Mr. Leon Brittan (Cleveland and Whalley Range, C)—Would Mr. Rees agree to let me continue my analysis about the case of Zehair Yousef Akache who was deported from Britain and then allowed to reenter?

He is suspected of having committed the murder of three prominent members of the commando unit that enabled him to leave the country again, and is now suspected of having been responsible for the hijacking at Mogadishu.

Mr. Rees—My Right Honourable Friend agreed that it is circumstances that it is still not possible for him to confirm or deny that this man is none other than the man responsible for that hijacking?

Mr. Rees—If I based my information on the newspapers, I could confirm that it is not my business to comment on the case. Whether I nor the police have got the basic information on which to be absolutely sure.

I see in the newspapers from time to time that I am accused of being deviant. There is no clever stuff about it.

He was using a false passport. It was a mistake. A mistake took place. But it certainly was not made by design. An error was made. I have said it now and I hope he is satisfied.

Mr. Brittan asked the Home Secretary for a statement about the circumstances in which Zehair Yousef Akache was permitted to leave the country on or about April 10, 1977.

Mr. Rees—in a written reply, said—the Commission of Police of the Metropolis tells me that detailed police records give the following facts. Arrests against whom warrants of arrest have been issued for the murder of three Yemeni Arab Republic subjects in London, April 10, 1977, left the country that afternoon. He left through Heathrow airport, using a Kuwaiti passport in the name of Ahmed Badr Al-Majid.

Soon after the murders had been committed, the police and the immigration service at Heathrow were alerted but the descriptions of the suspect provided by the police were insufficiently detailed to enable Akache to be identified and apprehended. It was not until the following day that urgent and painstaking police inquiries and investigations linking Akache with these crimes.

It is clear that the Home Secretary has been able to make a statement about the circumstances in which Zehair Yousef Akache was permitted to leave the country on or about April 10, 1977.

Mr. Rees—Will he say that he is satisfied that the man is none other than the man responsible for that hijacking?

Mr. Rees—If I based my information on the newspapers, I could confirm that it is not my business to comment on the case. Whether I nor the police have got the basic information on which to be absolutely sure.

Unions say: 'If you give to firemen you will give to us'

Other trade unions had sent a message saying bluntly: "If you give to the Fire Brigade Union you will give to us". Mr. Mervyn Rees, the Home Secretary, said during questions about the firemen's strike. The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Millan) and himself, he added, had told representatives of both sides of the National Joint Council for the fire brigades that they were ready to meet them at any time.

In the exchanges, Mr. Anthony Durant (Reading, South, C) said that in his constituency in the last two weeks two firemen had been killed and two awarded bravery honours for rescuing people from the Thames.

From my talking to picket lines late last night (we won't) I believe they are looking for some way out of the stalemate. Can he make clear what has been done? In what way could it be done? I am not going into the 10 per cent, which is basically important to the interest of the majority of this country. There is more to the discussion than that.

Of course the Government are concerned about it, but under the negotiating procedures laid down by the local authorities and the Fire Brigade Union are talking together. To suggest these ways of doing

it, as if only I would suggest them and the dispute would be over, is to ignore the realities of the situation.

Mr. Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab.)—I believe there is widespread sympathy for this patient and orderly body of men and there is an increasing wish among our people that some major concession should be made to them.

Mr. Rees—I would be last to say that there is not a high regard for the work of the firemen.

But I had a message last night from other unions which said "If you give to the Fire Brigade Union you will give to us". I am not talking about small sums of money, 10 per cent, but about special cases, if every other union is a special case and would not be called in aid in their disputes, that would be a different matter. But that is not the situation we are in.

Mr. Bill Lloyd (Havant and Waterlooville, C)—I would like to know if the new minister is making the fundamental constitutional difference between the exercise of the right to strike which is legitimate, and the exercise of the power they are asked to use in respect of the Queen's property in the first place and secondly to obstruct the use of that property by those authorized, by the illegal use of strike-breakers?

Mr. Rees—On blocking the use of strike-breakers, this is what I have to do and what is doing is to be known. I think it would be wrong to suggest that it is a member of the Fire Brigade Union.

The soldiers are not trained to do what they are asked to do. In what way could it be done? The discussion in the 48-hour week is a major breakthrough and the benchmark for the future is something the Fire Brigade Union have been talking about for

use sophisticated equipment and it is idle to pretend that they could not. When it comes to the use of strike-breakers, I believe that this is one area where they are complicit.

We have to train Services personnel in a special group, who can be protected in that way and be used in that way.

The general approach that equipment is not being used because of a block by the Fire Brigade Union is not true.

But I had a message last night from Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab)—The longer this strike persists the more money it will cost. Will he acknowledge that he can't afford to pay strike-breakers?

He accepts what the Home Secretary has said, that there are certain parts of the equipment which cannot be used without training.

Mr. Rees—Yes, most certainly. The Home Secretary and other ministers affected discussed this. There seems to be a difference of view about the breathing apparatus which is the responsibility of the armed forces?

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No fire officer is going to send a strike-breaker into a burning building (sheathes).

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OVERSEAS

Counsel at Biko inquest ready to call minister as witness to prove a cover-up by police

From Nicholas Ashford
Pretoria, Nov 17

The inquest into the death of Steve Biko, the South African black consciousness leader, took a dramatic turn this afternoon when counsel for the Biko family, Mr Sydney Kentridge, said he was prepared to call Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Police, if necessary, to show there had been a "cover-up" by the security police about how Mr Biko died.

Mr Kentridge said that "factually incorrect statements" made by Mr Kruger after Mr Biko's death could only have been based on information supplied by Colonel Piet Goosen, head of the Eastern Cape security police, who gave evidence throughout today's hearing.

He argued that the only reason Colonel Goosen could have for passing on such information to his superiors would be if he had something to hide. The whole chain of information, from Colonel Goosen to Mr Kruger, therefore had to be investigated, including calling Mr Kruger to give evidence if necessary, he added.

After Mr Biko's death in

police custody on September 12 Mr Kruger made a number of press statements in which he said that Mr Biko had been on a hunger strike and had been fed intravenously. However, Mr Kentridge said that these statements had been shown by the evidence and affidavits before the court to be "completely unfounded".

"It is absolutely clear that the minister was misled", Mr Kentridge went on. "Two questions now arise. Where did the cover-up start, and how high did it go? If we have answers to these it will tell us a great deal about what happened to Biko while in the custody of Colonel Goosen."

Mr Kentridge raised the possibility of calling the minister to give evidence after a dispute arose when he tried to put to Colonel Goosen part of a press statement issued by Mr Kruger on September 3. Colonel Goosen agreed that there were serious factual errors in the statement but said there was no evidence that it had been made by Mr Kruger.

During today's hearing the court was told that Mr Biko had never been allowed out of a public cell between August 18 and September 6, had not gone to the toilet for days on end and that his family was not informed when his condition was considered to be serious enough to warrant transferring him from Port Elizabeth to Pretoria.

After Mr Biko's death in

Mr Fraser refuses questions on land deals

Melbourne, Nov 17.—Mr Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, today stormed out of a press conference here refusing to answer questions about allegations that Mr Phillip Lynch, the Federal Treasurer, was involved in highly profitable land deals.

Mr Fraser called the press conference to attack a policy speech for the December 10 general election just delivered by Mr Gough Whitlam, the Labour Party leader, but reporters were more interested in asking about Mr Lynch's future—Agence France-Presse.

Our Melbourne Correspondent writes: Mr Whitlam began his seventh election campaign in 11 years as Labour leader today but his speech is less likely to benefit Labour than the controversy over Mr Lynch's alleged property dealings.

While Mr Whitlam was speaking at the Sydney Opera House and later on television, Mr Lynch was in hospital outside Melbourne, his future clouded after allegations in the Victoria Parliament earlier this week that he had made substantial profits from land deals involving the Liberal Party and land developers and



Mr Whitlam launches the Australian Labour Party's election campaign with a speech at the Sydney Opera House.

that he had bought a penthouse with the proceeds.

Mr Lynch is recovering from a kidney operation and still has made no statement although it was believed that he had a document detailing his personal finances handed to the Prime Minister today. The affair is unlikely to do the Liberal Party much good.

Since the Liberals gained power it has been Mr Lynch more than anyone else who has appealed to the public to refrain from tax evasion and wage claims in the interest of improving the country's ailing economy. Now it has been clearly displayed that the Treasurer enjoys a life-

style of considerable wealth. So Mr Whitlam was able to begin his campaign in an atmosphere of hopefulness. Nothing has yet gone right for the Liberals.

The middle-of-the-road Australian democrats, who are clearly going to be a considerable force in this election, have already deprived the Liberals of many votes in the Victoria by-election and the Queensland election.

So, although Mr Whitlam's speech today might have lacked the excitement of his 1972 campaign, there was an air of confidence, caused more by Liberal Party troubles than Labour triumph.

The main thrust of the speech was to outline Labour's policies of restoring the national health scheme, Medicare, to its original form, abolishing payroll tax and an employment subsidy plan. But perhaps the most important aspect of the speech was Mr Whitlam's avoidance of the word "socialism" and his emphasis on the fact that Labour would not go on a big spending boom.

The Labour Party will almost certainly poll much better than was thought at the time of the announcement of the election but Liberal setbacks notwithstanding, it still has a long way to go before being returned to office.

Nkomo-Mugabe talks to heal nationalist rift

Lusaka, Nov 17.—Talks aimed at uniting the two wings of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front guerrilla movement, weakened by an internal crisis, were due to start here today.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, the front's joint leader, flew from Lusaka to Maputo, the Mozambique capital, to meet Mr Robert Mugabe, his ally in the grouping. It is not known how long the talks would last.

In another development, a Zambian Government spokesman said President Kaunda

would fly to Mbala, in northern Zambia, tomorrow to meet President Nyere of Tanzania.

Government sources said the two leaders have taken differing views over the timing of elections foreseen in the Anglo-American peace plan for Rhodesia and over other issues relating to Rhodesia's widening guerrilla war.

Zambia and Tanzania are two of the front-line states whose diplomacy and support for the guerrillas play a central role in determining the course of the fight against white minority rule in Rhodesia.—Reuter.

Surprised US admires Sadat move

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, Nov 17.—President Sadat's forthcoming visit to Israel is still causing reverberations in Washington. The American Government was taken aback by surprise as everyone else, and a State Department spokesman soon pains this morning to repudiate any suggestion that the United States had heard about it in advance.

President Carter has said that he had been in daily contact with Mr Sadat. The spokesman made it clear that this was all part of the Administration's general diplo-

macy will be held in suspense until it welcomes President Sadat's move unconditionally. It is described as "a positive contribution to continuing efforts to open negotiations at Geneva for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict".

This is a carefully-calculated way of putting it. The Americans have no wish to appear as if they are advocating a bilateral agreement between Egypt and Israel, for fear that creating such an impression would jeopardize the chances of a comprehensive settlement.

It is, however, perfectly clear that all Middle Eastern

diplomacy will be held in suspense until the results of President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem have been assessed. The Administration and commentators here are filled with astonishment admiration for him.

Richard Davy writes: The Russians do not seem to approve of President Sadat's visit. Pravda writes that although there are many unclear points in the Egyptian-Israeli dialogue "one can discern in it the attempts of Tel Aviv and the forces behind it to urge Egypt on to the road of separate negotiations and deals with Israel".

Rhodesia's guerrilla war creates crisis for the mission hospitals

From Our Special Correspondent

Salisbury, Nov 17

The guerrilla war in Rhodesia has created a crisis for the extensive network of mission hospitals and clinics which provide medical care for Africans in rural areas where about four-fifths of the population live. The mission doctors have found themselves caught in the middle. If they assist one side then the other is bound to react.

Frequently a mission doctor is asked to aid a wounded guerrilla. Father Randolph J. Murphy, a representative of the Association of Rhodesian Catholic Bishops' Conference, says: "If he refuses he is likely to be shot. But if he provides help the security forces will quickly find out and then he will be charged with assisting terrorists. So what can he do?"

The security forces are taking an increasingly hard line with missions which they suspect of assisting guerrillas. Two months ago the 110-bed Regina Coeli hospital near the Mozambique border was closed by the authorities and all its equipment and furnishings removed after a "contact" there between guerrillas and security forces.

But the murder of two mission doctors earlier this year has probably been the single biggest reason why so many are now leaving.

resources are already overstretched by the war.

The mission hospitals tend to be situated in remote parts of the tribal trust lands where the war between the national guerrillas and Rhodesian troops is most intense. They are far from the main European centres and are usually approached by long stretches of dirt road where land mines are a constant danger.

The mission doctors have found themselves caught in the middle. If they assist one side then the other is bound to react.

Parallel with this is a surge of interest in the fantasies of outer space, shown in the success of the films Star Wars and, more recently, Close Encounters of the Third Kind. Street crime, some of it organized by the Mafia, is a part of everyday life in many American cities.

The citizens now prefer to escape from it to science fiction or the rarefied atmosphere behind Washington's closed doors.

The Godfather remains popular among certain élites, however. A group of 75 inmates of a prison in Queens, a borough of New York, have been sentenced to 25 days in solitary confinement for refusing to return to their cells after the stipulated time on Saturday because there was still an hour of the first episode to go.

They were made to miss the final episode while the other 425 inmates of the prison were given permission to stay up late to see it through to the end. So crime does not pay. At least, it does not pay at the box office as well as it used to.

Shah joins fight against dearer oil

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 17

The Shah of Iran concluded a three-day visit to the United States last night with a promise to fight for an oil price freeze during the forthcoming round of negotiations on oil production countries.

He confirmed earlier reports from the White House that Mr Carter would look sympathetically at Iranian requests for more armaments, including 140 F16 fighter aircraft and additional radar aircraft.

The Shah's departure last night for Paris was witnessed by boulders of well-wishers who were allowed on the Andrews

Air Force base near here. Anti-Shah protesters were kept away by Charles Hargrove writes from Paris: Exceptional precautions have been taken here to protect the Shah who arrived this morning on a private visit during which he will have two meetings with President Giscard.

The debate on Iran's position on oil prices, partly attributed to a slump in sales but also to a desire on the part of the Shah to conciliate alarm in the United States Congress at the scope of American arms sales to his country.

Leading article, page 15

As soon as he touches down a Hertz No.1 man takes off.

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Referendum for Banabans

A referendum is to be held to determine the relationship between Ocean Island, home of the Banabans, and the Gilbert Islands, and the status of phosphate revenues, which has been the source of much friction between the two sides.

The Foreign Office yesterday welcomed the announcement of direct talks between the parties and said it would be prepared to abide by the result of such a referendum.

Joint winner of the first Christopher Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize

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Aspects of Ulster 1609-1969

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جامعة

Americans bored by Mafia saga

From Michael Leapman
New York, Nov 17

The latest television ratings indicate a surprising new development in the culture of Americans: they are growing out of their obsession with the Mafia.

A nine-hour presentation of *The Godfather*, the best-selling Mafia novel which was turned into two lucrative films, was watched by considerably fewer people than the National Broadcasting Company, which screened it had hoped.

The television version was aired on four successive nights, and consisted of the two Godfather films plus extra footage which was rescued from the cutting-room floor. NBC had confidently expected that the four-part series would give them a comfortable lead in the ratings war with the two other national networks.

Yet the first installment, last Saturday, was watched in only 16,300,000 homes—which sounds a lot but just 10 million less than in the year's average. The Sunday episode did not beat it, climbing to fifth place. All episodes have been accompanied by a pious disclaimer that any offence is meant towards Italian-Americans, from whose ranks

The Monday and Tuesday ratings have yet to be released, but it is already clear that, by the competitive standards of American network television, the series was a flop. It did not do nearly as well as last season's Roots, the dramatized version of black history, nor as well as *Washington Behind Closed Doors*, a risqué but realistic account of the events leading up to Watergate.

What seems to be happening is that Americans are losing their fascination with organized crime, which sometimes deadly generally boils down to small-time and sleazy infringements of the law. Instead, they are turning to larger themes like historical crises against the black people and pervasive corruption in government.

Paralleling with this is a surge of interest in the fantasies of outer space, shown in the success of the films Star Wars and, more recently, Close Encounters of the Third Kind. Street crime, some of it organized by the Mafia, is a part of everyday life in many American cities. The citizens now prefer to escape from it to science fiction or the rarefied atmosphere behind Washington's closed doors.

The Godfather remains popular among certain élites, however. A group of 75 inmates of a prison in Queens, a borough of New York, have been sentenced to 25 days in solitary confinement for refusing to return to their cells after the stipulated time on Saturday because there was still an hour of the first episode to go.

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OVERSEAS

Party leaders modify policies on Nato and EEC as Greek election campaign reaches climax

From Mario Modiano

Athens, Nov 17

Surprising new ratings for the culture of America are growing out of the presentation of the *Maiak*, the best-selling book which was issued considerably faster than the National Book Award had hoped.

American version was at store-shelves nearly a week in the book trade, while extra foreign sales in the last month have been twice those of the two other national

titles mentioned above, and it is only the ratings that are still higher. The *Sai* did a bit better, and has been accompanied by a statement that they are well towards winning a third term.

The questions that existed before the campaign began, remain unanswered:

With the emergence of the ultra-right National Rally dominated by Mr Karanidis, the Prime Minister, and ruling New Democracy party, of winning a comfortable

majority in the next Parliament.

Every night this week Constitution Square, the heart of modern Athens, is surrendered to one of the main political parties for its final election campaign rally and a show of strength by thousands of supporters before voting on Sunday.

This ritual of electioneering is traditional in Greece, but it is rapidly being eroded by the increasing popularity of television in politics. So much so that the enthusiastic flag-waving multitudes now have to be strategically deployed on the screens for maximum television coverage.

It has been a spirited and exciting campaign all round. It has left the streets of towns and villages littered with tons of multi-coloured propaganda leaflets, and their walls thickly coated with layers of superimposed and resouched portraits of rival candidates.

Above all, the campaign has left the vacating voter more muddled than ever. It is, perhaps, likely that this year's result will be all political action on Saturday, the eve of polling day, in order to give voters time for reflection.

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Japan gets American force cuts warning

From Peter Hazelhurst

Tokyo, Nov 17

After living under America's security umbrella for three decades, Japan was given two forceful warnings today that the military presence of the United States in Asia is rapidly waning.

The first came from Mr Harold Brown, the American Secretary for Defence, who indicated today that the United States might gradually reduce its military strength in the Western Pacific, including Japan, after ground forces are withdrawn from South Korea.

Mr Brown is reported to have told a group of visiting Japanese politicians in Washington that Japan must now take steps to increase its own defence potential against submarine and air attacks.

A further blow came from Manila today. Under a new bilateral agreement, Filipino officers will replace American commanders at the main base at Subic Bay and at Clark Air Force base in the Philippines.

The agreement was reached to provide recognition of Philip's sovereignty, when American and Filipino officers convened in Manila yesterday to review the terms of the 30-year-old treaty. The original terms of the treaty allowed America to maintain bases in the Philippines until 1991. However President Marcos is now insisting that the term should be shortened to 1985.

The Filipinos have also insisted that the Americans can operate the bases in future only under the national flag of the Philippines. As a consequence, American commanders cannot now be expected to have effective control over the bases in the event of emergency operations.

In essence, America's declining

Doubts cast on 13-day crawl with broken leg

From Our Correspondent

Bangkok, Nov 17

Vietnamese refugees escaping from their homeland by boat now look on Australia as the only country open to them.

Many refugees arriving off Sydney give Australia as their final destination, and stop only to take on fuel, water and food. Some are of Chinese origin and are obviously rich. Their boats are well equipped and they have good charts.

Their destination would have been Thailand, Malaysia or some other part of South-East Asia but now all countries in the area are making it difficult for them to land. They say their only chance of refuge is to reach Australia.

After a student's story that he had spent 13 days crawling unnoticed along a creek bed in the centre of Sydney with a broken leg were expressed by the police today.

A police spokesman said that several people had come forward saying that they had seen Mr Stephen Sheehy, who is 18, fit and well several miles away, the day after he was supposed to have fallen off his bicycle on a busy road breaking his leg.

His father said today that his son was still upset by the experience. When he disappeared he was worried by coming examinations at a technical college—Reuter.

Rush to enter university as China reverses policy

From David Bonavia

Hongkong, Nov 17

A rush of school leavers in China applying for university entrance under newly announced procedures is causing serious problems.

Province after province has followed the recent national directive to allow young people to enter university direct from school if they are bright enough. This is a total reversal of the policy followed since the Cultural Revolution, under which they first had to work on farms or in factories, or join the armed forces.

Judging by provincial radio reports, the eagerness of secondary school pupils to go straight to university has led to the unjustified suppression of some applications by local authorities.

The screening out of the less

bright applicants at preliminary examinations has been forbidden as causing "contradictions between units". But it seems that no satisfactory means has yet been found to cope with the rush of applicants for the entrance examinations, which are being conducted on a province-by-province basis.

Certain youths are being excluded from entrance, which will also cause dissatisfaction. Contrary to the policy of the late Mao Tse-tung, "generals' children" who intend to return to their villages after graduation are no longer eligible for university education, although they will probably be allowed to go to agricultural colleges.

No provision is being made for students who are not 100 per cent physically fit, so that handicapped youths are barred from university education.

US officials arrive in Somalia as Russians go

Retiring man who made Janata Government tackle the immense problem of rural poverty

Force behind 'Gandhian socialism'

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Nov 17

Mogadishu, Nov 17.—The number of Indian ministers against whom there were no complaints of corruption could be counted on one's fingers," according to Mr Charan Singh, the Home Minister.

The most striking change of policy was when Mr Papandreu reassured the military that Pasok did not hold them responsible for the 1967 coup. This was designed to placate the Greek officers who are strongly hostile to Marxism and would certainly react if Pasok appeared to be close to power.

These moves won both ways. The communist left is already attacking Mr Papandreu for promising the "Junta remnants" within the armed forces a virtual amnesty, not unlike the one promised by Junta-sympathizing National Rally.

The Moscow-oriented Greek Communist Party, which is running alongside Pasok in its own name for the first time since 1936, is out to get as many votes as possible from Mr Papandreu.

One respected psephologist, who refused to venture a direct forecast, told me: "In Greece there are three big pots: one for the right which usually contains 40 per cent of the electorate; one for the centre which houses both Papandreu and Pasok with 35; and one on the left which is 10 per cent. You can hardly imagine that the remaining 15 per cent from one pot to the other, and that is why for the last 30 years the differences in Greek elections have never been so great."

Our Nairobi Correspondent writes: Twelve MPs from Somali-speaking areas of northern Kenya met President Kenyatta at Nakuru, 100 miles from Nairobi today to assure him that Somalis living in Kenya oppose claims to their areas by Somalia.

President Kenyatta, receiving a report on recent series of incidents in communications held in northern Kenya, said Kenya would never surrender an inch of its territory.

Mr Charan Singh: awkward, uncompromising remark

They were driven straight to the residence of President Siad Barre. American diplomatic sources said that they would also meet other Government and military officials and leave Mogadishu tonight for Zimbabwe.

The stock exchanges have reacted negatively to this "Gandhian socialism". Textile shares have fallen particularly heavily.

The party's new strategy aims to combat joblessness and the pointless drift to urban slums,

controversy over the role of large-scale and small industry can be expected.

Weaving illustrates the dilemma. India's handlooms at present produce only about 4,000 million yards of cloth annually, while the mills turn out about 9,000 million yards. Yet to clothe everyone properly in India, an estimated extra 11,000 million yards are needed. The Janata policy, however, would gradually reduce the output of the mills to favour handlooms. The danger is that if they do not expand their production sufficiently, the gap will widen.

There is a fundamental contradiction between Janata's demand that essential commodities may be produced in sufficient quantities and the decision to switch more resources to cottage and rural industry.

Mrs Gandhi backed: Supporters of Mrs Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, said last night they would go ahead with an attempt to restore her to leadership of the Congress Party.

Pravda upset by West's human rights attitude

Moscow, Nov 17.—Pravda today accused some Nato countries of waving a propaganda banner over human rights at the European security conference in Belgrade.

It said that Mr Arthur Goldberg, the United States chief delegate, was using the rights issue to distract attention from the serious problems which worried people in Europe.

Pravda added that a number of Western countries continued to hamper the work of the conference by "waving a basket

Three in the air"—a reference to the section of the Helsinki declaration dealing with human rights.

Sensing the weakness of their positions in the conference halls, some members of Nato tried during the past week to launch a propaganda war in the lobbies. But their dirty trick was condemned by the overwhelming majority of delegations.—Reuter.

Desmond Trenier writes from Belgrade: A file containing documents on alleged violations of human rights in the Soviet Union and other East European countries was today handed over to the Italian delegation.

It was brought by Signor Carlo di Meana, the president of the Venice Biennale, and included a list of dissident intellectuals from Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia who have been refused visas and prevented from attending the Biennale whose theme is cultural dissent.

Interpol alerted about secret Indian sect

Delhi, Nov 17.—India said today that it had asked Interpol for help after threats had been made against its diplomats in 11 countries by the Andam Marg religious sect.

The sect—in Sanbler, the name means "path of bliss"—has been blamed for the stabbing in September of an Indian military attaché in Aus-

tralia. An Air India employee was wounded in Australia last month.

Attacks on Indian property in Britain have also been blamed on the sect, which seeks the release of Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar, its leader who is a former civil clerk.

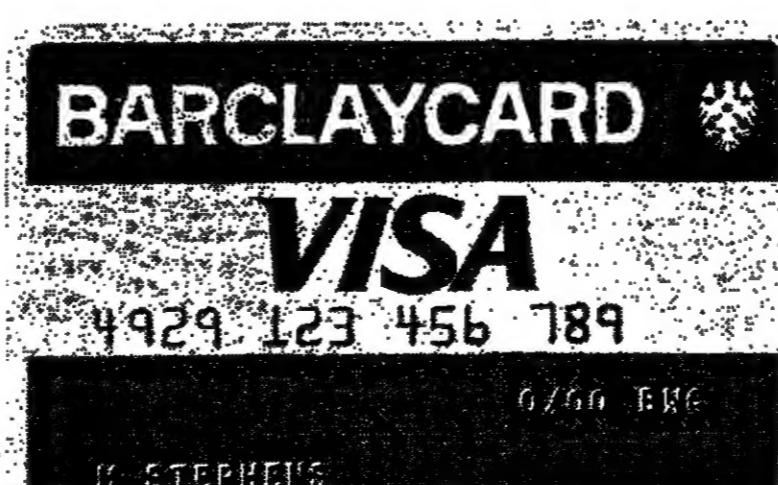
Known as Anand Murti (Bliss Personified) he has been

jailed for life for the murder of six defectors from the sect.

The Indian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur received a letter today from a wing of the Andam Marg, demanding

Mr Sarker's release, and threatening the life of Mr Desai, the Indian Prime Minister.—Reuter.

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2	33.83	17.30	12.00
3	33.83	17.30	11.00
4		17.30	9.00
5		17.30	8.00
6		17.30	7.00
7		17.30	6.00
8		17.30	5.00
9		17.30	4.00
10		17.30	3.00
11		17.30	2.00
12		17.30	1.00
13		17.30	0.00
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TOTAL INTEREST PAID	101.49	103.80	107.78
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SPORT

Football

The familiar English bludgeon is replaced by wit and patience

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

The first person to implore people not to get carried away with England's welcome revival against Italy at Wembley Wednesday was Ron Greenwood, the temporary manager. Understandably he, perhaps more than anyone, wanted to revel in a little belated glory and in the sounds of appreciation that replaced derision, but he knew that many wasted matches could not be dismissed in 50 minutes. England had been shown the direction in which to go and had found someone to lead them, even if it is too late for next summer's World Cup.

In the past few years, many factors have caused England's football poverty. Not all of the blame must be thrown at the departed Don Revie, who made mistakes but who deserved to be thrown out of his control. Lessons were taken. Excuses became predictable, and players lost their confidence. They were lamentably misused, being asked to play in styles alien to their proved strengths. The fact that the best players who were capable of temperamental unsuitability or, in the case of Gerry Francis, often unavailable because of injuries, was not overlooked by the use of the more traditional strengths. The selections often masked weaknesses.

In his short period as temporary manager, Greenwood has remedied much of the damage. He began, perhaps unwisely, by attempting to produce immediate improvement by tapping the talents of the Liverpool club. This failed, and he moved on, and, more significantly, in Luxembourg where more goals, combined with Wednesday's 2-0 win, could have put Italy in a much more difficult position against Luxembourg on December 3. He admitted this

week that the team he chose to play Italy was the first to reflect his views.

His theme was the use of good club players in their club roles. There was little regimentation because the essence of his philosophy is freedom of movement. This was particularly noticeable in the fine performance of Keegan, who, not being told exactly where to play, used his considerable natural instinct. Indeed, most of the team played as if released from shackles. Coppell and Barnes were able to show their skills without being tied to rigid plans and both seemed to have proved themselves.

After the World Cup qualifying matches, a total of 11 nations are sure of their places in the finals in Argentina next summer. The 3-1 win over Bulgaria makes France the latest qualifying nation joining West Germany, Poland, Argentina (both nations), Poland, Austria, The Netherlands, Sweden, Scotland, Brazil, Peru and Mexico.

In praising England for such a refreshing display it would be wrong to forget that the Italians still obtained a satisfactory result and were rarely confined to attack. Nonetheless, their defence took Keegan, Barnes, and Coppell difficult to subdue, and were perhaps surprised to discover that whereas in the past England teams had attempted to bludgeon a way through, this time there was tact and patience to come. There was also the taking of influence of Mr Greenwood there. Neither is there now any doubt that his temporary position should soon become permanent.

It is true that his temporary position should soon become permanent, as he has been asked to extend his contract at least until the end of the year.

The FA should not be saved from turning to less stable candidates than Mr Greenwood, who has not added a word of assistance to his own choice. The list of serious contenders for a position with an as-yet undetermined title can now be reduced to the names of two men: one under Mr Greenwood's wing, and, more significantly, in Luxembourg where more goals, combined with Wednesday's 2-0 win, could have put Italy in a much more difficult position against Luxembourg on December 3. He admitted this

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Italian papers criticize their team

Rome, Nov 17.—The Italian press today unanimously decried their team's performance in losing 2-0 to England at Wembley. But they took comfort in the fact that Italy need only beat Luxembourg to qualify for the World Cup finals.

Under the banner headline "beaten by fear," Italy's leading sports daily, *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, said Italy deserved a heavier defeat. Italy "always left the initiative to England, re-

lying on 'catenaccio' defense without having the players to make it work," *La Gazzetta* said. "It was a distressing return to play which in recent times has been a real headache for us." Keegan, the hero of yesterday's loss, was given a standing ovation by the crowd.

Tutti's La Stampa said the defeat had been "controlled," not jeopardising Italy's chances of going to Argentina, but Italy had disappointed in failing to mount even one convincing attacking

Bury give Stokoe chance to start all over again

Bob Stokoe returned to football yesterday as manager of Bury, who was dismissed. Mr Stokoe had been out of job for 12 months since resigning as manager of Sunderland, whom he steered to an FA Cup final victory and the second division title. More recently his name had been mentioned in the vacancy at Newcastle United.

It was a Newcastle player that Mr Stokoe first attracted Bury's attention. He joined them in 1961 and helped them to gain promotion from the third division in the year he was named as player-manager. His managerial career then took him to Charlton Athletic, Rochdale, Carlisle United and Blackpool before he took Sunderland back to the first division.

Mr Stokoe has been Bury's manager since November, 1973, when he guided them out of the fourth division. In his first year he led them to the third division, and in the year he was named as player-manager. His managerial career then took him to Charlton Athletic, Rochdale, Carlisle United and Blackpool before he took Sunderland back to the first division.

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letic, Rochdale, Carlisle United and Blackpool before he took Sunderland back to the first division.

Mr Stokoe admitted that he would have liked to achieve his ambition of being given the post of manager of a football club again. He was delighted at the prospect of going back to Bury where he had his first experience of football management.

Greenhoff successfully came through a reserve match against a weak side and "I'm fit and available for selection and looking forward to getting back into first team action. Once our side is settled I feel we will move up the table quickly." It is fit after missing five matches with an ankle injury and the manager David Sexton picks from a full strength pool for Bury's home match with Norwich City.

Ferguson and Holton of Coventry City, who do double duty for the home match against Queen's Park Rangers.

During the club's recent trip to Malta they both did some light training, but the manager Gordon McCrory has now kept them out of the side until next week.

Holton has a hamstring injury and Ferguson a sprained ankle. Meanwhile Coventry's playing success is bringing a ticket sales boom.

Squash rackets

Leslie keeps first place in rankings

Jon Leslie's impressive performance at the recent world amateur championships in Canada were helped him to retain his top position in the latest British squash rankings. Leslie has remained the number one amateur since last season, when he took over from the world record holder in four years. Mr Smith said: "The fact that I have been sacked hasn't really sunk in. I am disillusioned and, although I have no immediate plans, I

Foster has set his sights on four titles next year

Brendan Foster, the world's third fastest man over 10,000 metres, will spend the winter preparing for a double attack on gold medal in both the European and Commonwealth Games next summer. Foster, surprisingly, has decided to skip the European Cup earlier this year, will embark on a strenuous training schedule to ensure a place in Britain's team. The event, sponsored by Schaeffers, has attracted a top class field. Dick Quax, the 5,000 metres world record holder from New Zealand, will be making his first cross-country appearance in England.

He said yesterday: "I had a few ups and downs last year and, quite honestly, it has done me no good. I am not going to run the European Cup again because it is for the European Cup I reckoned the fire in my belly and the result was my fastest: 10,000 metres in the Coca-Cola championships at Leyton.

"I still consider myself to have a few years in top athletics and

missed it out of hand. Anyone playing Test cricket at that time must have had it in his mind." He said the worrying thing about Mr Packer's matches was how much cricket would have to adopt to television, rather than the other way around. He could not see how television should be able to dictate how the game should be played.

Brealey, a highly qualified academic, has put no time limit on his stay in the first class game. He said: "When I returned in 1971 I thought I would play for only two or three years, but I am still here and have a benefit next year."

Brealey was optimistic about tour prospects this winter. He said: "Although we are without experienced players like Tony Greig and Alan Knott I think our pace attack of Bob Willis, Chris Old, John Lever, Mike Hendrick and Bob Willis will be back. We have fielded for about 15 years." However he warned that Pakistan, although they had lost five leading players to Kerry Packer like England, had a great reputation for finding young players of Test class.

Brealey said that had he had an approach from Mr Packer last summer: "I would not have dis-

Rugby Union



Watkinson (centre) forces his way through to score Oxford's second try.

Brave challenge ended by Rees

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Oxford 19, Stade 15. Stade's XV 23

Oxford 2, Italy 0. Group three: 1. Italy 2, Italy 0. Group three:

2. Belgium 3, Northern Ireland 3. Group four: Northern Ireland 3, France 2. Group four: Scotland 2, Scotland 2.

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ROYAL ALBERT HALL, Sunday 7.30. **ALBERT HALL TOMORROW** 8 p.m. **VERDI REQUIEM**. London City Chorus. **ROYAL PHILHARMONIC** LOVE SONGS. Soloists. C. 26-25 101-589 8212 & Agents.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, Tonight. S. of the Hall. **JOHN NEALE** plays. Louis Freeman, John Williams, Prokofiev: **LEAVES**. Hon. **ROBERT FAULKNER**: Faust: 3. Dances. Thrush Ensemble. **DAVID BACH** at Child. Suite No. 2.

ST. JOHN'S SMITH SQ. Tonight 7.30. **THE THREE AMIGOS**. An evening with **CATHY BERGER**. Leader: piano. The St. John's Band.

WINDSOR HALL, 10.30. Tonight 7.30. **ROBERTO OLABARRETA** plays. **JOHN NEALE** plays. **DAVID BACH**, **ALICEA RADICE**.

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PHILADELPHIA THEATRE, 01-345 7611. **N.Y. NIGHT**, 3.0. **LONDON'S BEST NIGHT**, 4.0. **DEADLY EXPENSE**, 5.0. **BOOKINGS ON 01-326 7611**.

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ALBERTY, 036 3878. From Dec. 1. **MAGICAL MUSICAL OLIVER!** 1. **ALDWYNCH**, 026 6404. **INT. 036 5323**. **ROYAL**, 026 7307. **THE DAYS OF THE COMMUNE**, 026 7307. **WITH: JEAN'S PILLARS OF THE COMMUNE**, 026 7307. **RESC**, 026 7307. **THE WARDHOUSE**, 026 7307. **AND CARRY THEATRE**, 026 7307.

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SOMETHING'S AFOOT, 026 7307. **INFUSED WITH UNBALANCED FUN**, 026 7307. **FAMILY SHOW**, 026 7307. **ENORMOUS MURKIN**, 026 7307. **OF COURSE**, 026 7307. **EDWARD LEAVES**, 026 7307.

APOLLO, 01-327 0641. **EVERY DAY**, 0.0. **NOT THAT IT'S SO BAD**, 0.0. **DEAR LINDA**, 0.0. **IN A ROW**, 0.0. **EVERYTHING'S FUNNY**, 0.0. **The Times**. **SHUT YOUR EYES AND THINK OF ENGLAND**, 0.0.

ASTORIA, Captain X Road, 01-734 6281. **MONDAY'S CHILD**, 0.0. **ELVIS**, 0.0. **On Stage**, 0.0. **Tickets**, 0.0. **100% TAKES**, 0.0. **IN BOX**, 0.0. **IN BOX**, 0.0.

CAERPHILLY, 01-327 1111. **MONSIEU**, 0.0. **TOAD ON TOAD HALL**, 0.0. **Directed by Michael Balcon**. Credit card bookings 036 836 1001.

CAMBRIDGE, 026 5206. **Mon. to Sat.** 7.30. **PICTUREHOUSE**, 026 5206. **TOAD ON TOAD HALL**, 0.0. **Directed by Michael Balcon**. Credit card bookings 036 836 1001.

PIPPADWY, 01-327 1111. **ROYAL**, 026 7307. **THE OLD COUNTRY**, 0.0. **ALIC GUINNESS IN THE OLD COUNTRY**, 0.0.

ROYAL COURT, 026 1740. **Last 2 days**. **PIERRE BRONCHART**, 0.0. **JANET SUZANNE IN THE COMPTON**, 0.0. **TOAD ON TOAD HALL**, 0.0. **Directed by Patrick Garland**. **Music**, **Tim Rice**. Prior to Australian tour.

PRINCE OF WALES, 01-326 3001. **PRINCE OF WALES**, 0.0. **TOAD ON TOAD HALL**, 0.0. **Directed by Michael Balcon**. Credit card bookings 036 836 1001.

QUEENS THEATRE, 01-751 1146. **THE OLD COUNTRY**, 0.0. **ALIC GUINNESS IN THE OLD COUNTRY**, 0.0.

RHODE ISLAND, 01-327 1111. **ROYAL**, 026 7307. **PICTACULAR**, 0.0. **TOAD ON TOAD HALL**, 0.0. **Directed by Michael Balcon**. Credit card bookings 036 836 1001.

SHAFTEBURY, 01-326 6597. **ANNA NEAGLE**, 0.0. **TOAD ON TOAD HALL**, 0.0. **Directed by Michael Balcon**. Credit card bookings 036 836 1001.

SHAW, 01-326 6598. **ANTONY & CLEOPATRA**, 0.0. **TOAD ON TOAD HALL**, 0.0. **Directed by Michael Balcon**. Credit card bookings 036 836 1001.

SHREWSBURY, 01-326 6597. **MAN AND SUPERMAN**, 0.0. **TOAD ON TOAD HALL**, 0.0. **Directed by Michael Balcon**. Credit card bookings 036 836 1001.

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J.P.Y. 15/4

THE TIMES



What's the point of Ken White's mural?

Ken White spent three months working eight hours a day on this beautiful eerie mural.

The place is Swindon and the mural is Swindon as it used to be.

He says he did it because the "wall just asked for a mural" and because he thought it might brighten the place up a bit.

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THE MURAL WAS A THAMESDOWN COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT.

THE TIMES

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TOO FAR OR NOT FAR ENOUGH

The timing out on Labour's backbenchers of the revolt against the Government's devolution legislation clears the path for its enactment. Obstruction or serious delay is not to be expected from the Lords when a general election casts its shadow over it. Barring a dissolution of Parliament earlier than the Prime Minister may be presumed to have in mind, the Bills should reach the statute book. And unless the Scottish or Welsh electorate spurns a referendum the gifts that are being fashioned for them in the new Assemblies and attendant apparatus will take their place in the constitutional arrangements for the kingdom.

Seldom can the decisive debate on measures of this magnitude have exhibited such restricted enthusiasm. The determining argument in the debate (leaving aside party advantage, disciplinary sanctions and so on) was that in Scotland, and perhaps also in Wales, settled political sentiment now demands appreciable political autonomy within the confines of the state; that since such sentiment prevails it is the course of good government to satisfy it so far as possible; and that to frustrate the Scots, in particular, in their expectation would be to propel them towards separation. Those MPs who are not impressed by that sequence of argument but nevertheless did not oppose the passage of the legislation could invoke the promised referendum as a further opportunity of stopping the reform by talking the Scots and Welsh out of their apparent desire for it.

If that was the determinative argument it was heard against a background of misgiving about

the measures themselves. Misgiving not just about their content and its workability but also about what they portend. The Scottish Nationalists welcome the Scotland Bill as a valuable salient from which to develop their campaign for independence. As they are the specialists so to speak in Scottish nationalism, their view of the measure cannot be safely disregarded—unless it is to suppose that they secretly would have preferred another parliamentary refusal not of their own making. To that doubt about the effect of the measure on Scotland's relations with the other elements which compose the United Kingdom, are added misgivings about its implications for the development of government throughout the kingdom.

There is a general feeling that the compromise struck in these Bills is an unstable compromise, that it will work only if it is developed, and that the development inherent in the scheme about to be enacted is development in the direction of federalism. It is very far from clear that a move to federalism is what most of those who have thought about it want, or that it is a type of constitution appropriate to the traditions and political geography of the United Kingdom. Yet it is a reasonable conclusion that the establishment of this devolutionary scheme will set up an institutional momentum towards a federation. If so, and since *c'est le premier pas qui code*, there is better reason than Ministers acknowledge for opening the referendum of endorsement to the whole nation.

The federal implications are

NEXT YEAR'S PRICE OF OIL

Preliminary soundings of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' ministerial meeting, due to start at Caracas on December 20, are now well advanced. It is there that the Opec cartel will decide on the oil price rise for 1978. Western diplomacy, led by the United States, has won a significant concession, when the Shah of Iran indicated this week in Washington that his country would not be pressing for an immediate or substantial price increase in Venezuela.

OPEC member countries have an obvious interest in preserving the maximum appearance of unity in the coming weeks. Their whole political and financial influence depends on it. There is a clear willingness to compromise in order to avoid another major split in the ranks, which led last time to the two-tier structure of prices in the international oil market. The Shah's motives for such

restraint are obvious enough. The Iranian development programme and arms budget require ever increasing oil revenues. A split in Opec led by Iran could easily produce a situation in which, faced by Saudi Arabian pressure to contain a price increase, such revenues could fall. Equally, in the field of arms and nuclear technology, Iranian development plans are largely dependent on American good will. The present Iranian position, therefore, that it will be a passive "observer" at Caracas makes obvious sense.

It should not, however, be assumed that this means that there will be a total price freeze for the whole of 1978. It would require a very strong and successful stand by the Saudi Arabians to achieve that result. It is more likely that there will be a moderate increase for the year, of well under 10 per cent, perhaps coming in two stages, even perhaps with a freeze for the first six months of the year.

Such restraint would be obviously welcome for the industrial world, still struggling to get out of the present phase of economic stagnation. Any more substantial increase would threaten to plunge the world back into full recession and at the same time increase inflationary pressures.

The danger for the West is that the results will be taken as an excuse for continued failure to develop energy conservation policies to match the global energy crisis that faces us. The most serious culprit in this respect remains the United States, if only because of the dominant position it occupies in the world's energy economy. No energy programme for the United States can begin to face the magnitude of the impending energy gap, so long as domestic policies continue artificially to hold down by regulation the price of a scarce and expensive resource, thus encouraging higher consumption.

W. R.M.

THE BIRDS ARE NOT ONLY FLOWN, BUT SINGING

Without being obliged to give so much as a reason for his action, the Home Secretary has power to forbid any foreigner to enter Britain or remain here. Such a discretion over the fate of individuals should be used only seldom, when major issues of public policy require it. As a general rule, its use should also be avoided if its only effect is to make the Home Secretary and his discretion look foolish. An object lesson in how not to do it was provided yesterday by Mr. Marilyn Rees, in the affair of the former SS officers.

Before they ever arrived here, Mr. Rees had his eye on them. Two of the three were nabbed on arrival and served with notices requiring them to leave (the third was only spotted on his way home). Mr. Rees rightly went beyond his obligations under the Immigration Act and made his reasons public: it was against public policy, he said, for ex-members of the SS to promote the publicity and sale of a certain book attempting to vindicate its wartime record. One of the three, Herr Meyer, was then released from detention, since his banning order only said that he should be gone by midnight, like Cinderella, and the Home Secretary was in some doubt whether he had the power to detain an EEC citizen. Naturally Meyer went off and held a press conference to pro-

mote the publicity and sale of the book.

Mr. Rees was probably right to decide not to allow the men in. It is only in very serious cases that entry should be denied at a minister's discretion. Even when there is reason to expect the entrant to break the law it is often better to keep an eye on him but not judge him in advance. The power should be used with particular care when, as in this case, people are banned because they or their opinions are unpopular. There would be precious few foreign statesmen allowed into Britain if the possibility of violent demonstrations against them was held to rule them out.

In politics it is sometimes necessary to swallow one's distaste when greeting a Ponomaryov or a Sholepin. The personal histories of the three German ex-officers may be blameless by comparison, but the purpose of their visit made it right to apply different standards. The name of the SS is rightly odious to most Britons with memories of the war, and especially to relatives and co-religionists of the minority groups who suffered under its oppression. The book does not appear to make a serious attempt to rebut the overwhelming evidence that the SS was involved in brutalities wholly unjustified even by the harsh rules of war.

A Crusader's tomb

From Mrs Alice Rushbrooke
Sir, On February 2, 1926 you published an article by the late Sir Ronald Scott concerning the history and restoration of the tomb of Sir Philip d'Aubigné in the Parvis of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

Philip d'Aubigné was tutor to Henry III and Governor of the Channel Islands; he joined one of the expeditions in support of the Fifth Crusade and reached Jerusalem in 1222. He died there in 1236 and according to the medieval historian Matthew Paris, "met his holy burial in holy ground, which living he had long desired". The tomb was discovered in 1857 before the main door of the Church when a stone bench was removed which had been used for centuries by

authorities to levy tax from the Christians; since 1933 when the present work of restoration was commenced it has been covered for protection by thick wooden planks.

As a direct descendant on my mother's side of Sir Philip's brother, Ralph, I have on a number of occasions attempted to see the tombstone but until last month was unsuccessful in persuading the authorities to allow me to do this. On this occasion, however, through the intercessions and kind offices of the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Teddy Kollek, and the Guardian of the Holy Sepulchre, Archimandrite Daniel of the Greek Orthodox Church, together with his Armenian and Catholic fellow administrators, the stone was uncovered for me on October 29.

I am happy to say it appears to be in good condition and the care

taken in its construction is evident. The inscription reads:

AD ALIA RUSIBROOKE,
10 BENTON ROAD,
WIMBLEDON, SW15
November 9.

JPY 150

150

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Criticisms of 'Le Monde'

From the Editor of Le Monde

Sir, On October 15 The Times published an astonishing lead on Le Monde. In any other publication it would have indeed seemed preposterous and needlessly irrelevant. But it is deeply disturbing in a highly reputed newspaper with which Le Monde has had a close working relationship for years.

The lead was based on an article that appeared in the German edition of the European Economic Community's magazine. The article, under the byline of Alfred Frisch, makes out that Le Monde's editorial staff consists of "passive writers, political agitators and a hard core of extremists and Communists"; that its editor in chief "sets his course according to the strongest currents" and that "cynical utilitarians" are "largely responsible for the newspaper's image".

If this is so, then it is surprising that the editor should have no reason to command it the agreement which was to lead to the creation of our common supplement.

Europe. Nor you know perfectly well that Herr Frisch's allegations are a grueling attack and not an iota of truth. Besides, the EEC Commission was quick to repudiate the editor of the magazine which reproduced the article.

The questions submitted to the European Assembly by virtue of its motion of censure by the publication of the article will probably afford it an opportunity to disprove the disclaimer. I do not understand how you could have in your leader, in the first place, compared "allegations" whose "wildness" must seem clear to you with a "Tribune Libre" in Le Monde, and secondly, how you could have found fault with our Brussels correspondent's action in protesting to the Commission over Herr Frisch's article.

Finally, I say your readers imagine what could have happened were the other newspaper in the Europe venture treated The Times with such offhandness. Would you not have expected an apology at the very least?

Yours sincerely,

JACQUES FAUVET,
Le Monde,
5 Rue des Italiens,
Paris.

November 9.

"Our leading article caused Le Monde great offence: to what extent we must have been in error, for it was certainly not intended to do so.

Le Monde is one of the great independent newspapers of the world, and M. Fauvet is a most distinguished Editor.

The leading article in question did not endorse the criticisms of Le Monde that were made by Herr Frisch. We did, however, consider that Le Monde claimed freedom of publishing strong comments which were not in accordance with our views. We did not respond to Herr Frisch's article, as they did, despite the violent language. Of course they had every right to reply to it.

Europe is an association of independent newspapers. It can only work that way. We would not have resented such comments as we made on Le Monde had our partners made them about us—indeed we recently accepted without protest friendly criticism—unfortunately justified—from even closer colleagues on The Sunday Times. However, we greatly admire Le Monde and will defend them to the death when we think they are in the right.

Yours faithfully,

R. W. ANNAND,
Springwell House,
Wintringham,
Durham.

November 16.

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November 16.

Use of equipment at fire stations

From Mr Gordon Bradshaw

Sir, Will someone in authority be

good enough to come down from

Mount Olympus and answer the

following question?

Why is it that our young soldiers

have to put their health and safety in hazard (and, by extension, the

lives of five victims), by having to

fight appalling fires without the

assistance of breathing apparatus,

when everyone knows that such

apparatus is part of the equipment held at fire stations?

If the answer is that the Govern-

ment will not authorize the release

of the apparatus for fear of offend-

ing the trade unions because of some

ridiculous about not crossing picket

lines, surely this is the most

deserting indictment of a political

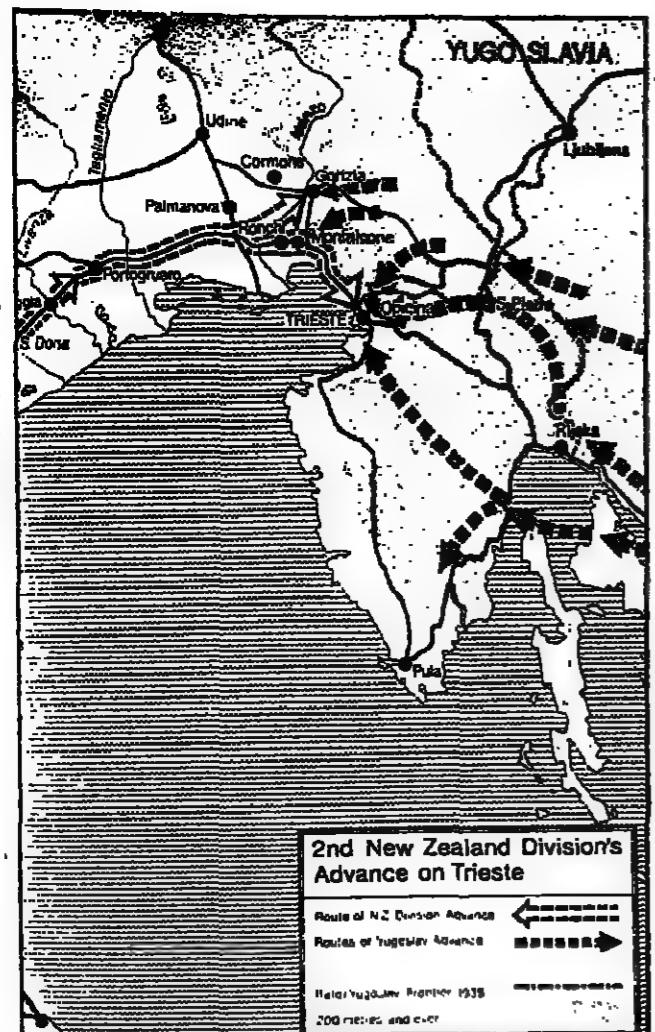
movement and its ethics there has

ever been.

Yours faithfully,

GORDON BRADSHAW,

Parways,</



The brink of the Cold War

One event in postwar history which has attracted surprisingly little attention from the historians has been the confrontation between the Western Allies and the Yugoslavs in Trieste in May and June 1945. The true dimensions became apparent only when the War Cabinet papers for the period were made available under the Thirty Years rule.

Sir Geoffrey Cox, who experienced the crisis on the spot as Intelligence Officer to the New Zealand Commander General Freyberg VC, has now drawn on those papers to tell the full story of this confrontation in *The Race for Trieste*. In this extract he describes the final and decisive phase of the crisis. At each crossroads on each bridge the local Partisans and the Yugoslav troops stood in irritated silence alongside the British and American sentries. On the great cornice road which cut into the rock above the sea between Monfalcone and Trieste, our supply trucks wound in and out of the columns of marching Tito's troops, some of them Morgan Line veterans, with faces as dark as Moons. In the fields, on all the strategically important hills and slopes our troops and the Yugoslavs, or his advice to London. "When the Yugoslavs found themselves side by side.

I drove from Miramare into Trieste. In front of Brigadier Gentry's headquarters stood two New Zealand sentries, their bayonets fixed, their posture slack and yet alert. At the corner tow Sherman tanks facing a Yugoslav Stuart tank. Opposite, some sort of Tito headquarters had been set up in a bistro which proclaimed itself to be "inappropriately enough, the 'Bar National'". On the pavement outside a Yugoslav platoon was parading.

Outside the hotel door a few civilians were gathered. One or two were white-faced, with red-rimmed eyes, and they gazed towards the doorway as if it led to the promised land. Others were just part of a normal, unconcerned Saturday afternoon crowd. The front of the hotel was marked with fresh bullet-holes where the Yugoslavs had fired when a crowd had demonstrated for Italy the day before. By the water-side I could see our patrols and the Yugoslavs pacing slowly up, each watching the other constantly, cautiously. It must have been as wearying to their nerves as to ours.

Marshal Tito's reply to the British and American notes demanding his withdrawal came on Friday, May 18, one week after Truman's conference in the White House. It was a forthright "No". Tito refused to accede in any way to the British demands. The resolve against Yugoslavia was now as intense as their feeling against the Yugoslavs, or his advice to London. "When the Yugoslavs Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs handed me Marshal Tito's note" he reported to the Foreign Office. "I first time it seemed to me merely a repetition of Tito's counter-proposal which Field Marshal Alexander had already rejected. He confirmed this was so. I left him in no doubt that I considered Tito's reply highly unsatisfactory. I told him bluntly that His Majesty's Government and the United States Government had taken their stand on a matter of principle on which they could not and would not yield. He had nothing further to say and he was obviously acting nervous and unhappy.

In these circumstances, the Ambassador recommended "our rejoinder to be swift and decisive". Tito should be told that unless he was prepared to accept in full within a given time limit the Allied proposals, Field Marshal Alexander should be instructed to occupy in force the whole region up to the Morgan, as the minimum Anglo-American demand.

In London the Prime Minister was quick to urge such action on to the Americans. He was helped by two further messages from Alexander. In one the Field Marshal revised his estimate of the morale of his troops. He had earlier argued that "both the United States and British troops would be very reluctant to engage in armed conflict against Yugoslavia". Now he asserted that their feeling against the Yugoslavs was "strong and is getting stronger daily". In the other message he said he was no longer prepared to accept—as he had been earlier—that the Yugoslav administration in Trieste might continue to function.

The Prime Minister stressed that he did not envisage war with the Yugoslavs, but that immediate action was necessary "otherwise we shall merely appear to have been bluffing and will in fact be bluffed out". He reminded the President that Alexander had pointed out that Tito refused either to withdraw his troops or administration under Alexander's command, or refused to withdraw from the area. "It will inevitably lead to armed conflict, since I must very soon insist on the proper functioning of my AMG. For example, I must remove Tito's proclamations and replace them with my own. I cannot allow my movements to be restricted by Yugoslav posts or sentries."

The Prime Minister went on to argue that in these circumstances the line the President had drawn as to when American troops could or could not be used was too rigid.

President Truman was not going to be hurried by his allies any more than he had been deterred by the critics in Washington of his decision on May 11. He still saw no reason why the conflict should decline into a shooting war. One key figure in this conflict had not yet shown his hand—Joseph Stalin. The Soviet leader had been kept fully informed of the British and American notes to Tito. Tito had not responded. But equally he had not given any overt sign of his support for Tito.

Truman therefore decided that we might still get our way if pressure was intensified on the Yugoslav leader, though we should still move with caution. The President had used the intervening days while Tito considered the first message, to ensure that this display of force would be massive and convincing. He began, with some relief, to flex the formidable muscles of a fully mobilized United States.

I asked General Eisenhower if he could send three divisions to the Brenner Pass or above Trieste. I asked Admiral King whether he could send some units of the Mediterranean Fleet to the Adriatic, and how long it would take to get them there. I told him to alert the necessary ships. I asked General Arnold what air squadrons he could move, and I asked him to alert them.

The response of the commanders was indeed dramatic. Eisenhower reported that he was prepared to dispatch General Parson with up to five armoured divisions to the Brenner Pass and if necessary into Italy. Admiral King reported that units of the Mediterranean Fleet had been alerted to steam into the Adriatic. General Arnold had several air force squadrons ready to move at a moment's notice. An area around Rimini was designated as an operational base. It was then, as now, the main holiday area for the industrial north and best models which could be used in barracks and hospitals. In Rimini itself and in the surrounding countryside, 25,000 Italian civilians were notified that they must evacuate their homes to make way for the incoming reinforcements. On May 16 a British naval force arrived at Trieste through a channel which had been swept through the minefields. The American infantry battalion stationed in Trieste was regrouped with its parent formation near Gorizia in readiness for battle. In Belgrade, British and American citizens were warned to be ready to leave and the Embassy staffs of both countries prepared for evacuation.

General Clark, never a man to shun the limelight, went forward himself with the foremost column. He has given his own account of what happened (*Calculated Risk*, Mark Clark, Manager).

The order for the advance was given, and a short time later I drove a jeep along the road followed by the main column in order to see how things were going. Approaching Gorizia, the road led under a railway bridge, and there the Yugoslavs had set up a road-block. Our column had halted short of the bridge, waiting for the time set for all the columns to make their advance simultaneously.

"When do you advance?" I asked the column commander as my jeep pulled up beside him.

"Right now, sir." "All right; come along." I said and motioned my driver to proceed under the bridge, where there was a gap in the road block wide enough to allow one vehicle to pass. I buzzed past the Yugoslav guards, and the column followed us with no difficulty, although I must admit that I held my breath for several minutes for fear that some reckless guard might fire the shot. Everyone else felt the same way: nobody wanted the distinction of being the last killed in the Second World War.

© Sir Geoffrey Cox, 1977. *The Race for Trieste*, Sir Geoffrey Cox, will be published next Monday at £5.95.

To feel at home when you go to Japan, Fly the Flag—



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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 17: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh held an Evening Reception at Buckingham Palace for the Diplomatic Corps at which Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, The Prince of Wales, Prince Michael of Kent, Vice Admiral of the Fleet The Earl Mountbatten of Burma were present.

The String Orchestra of the Irish Guards played selections of music during the evening.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Household Cavalry, The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard and a dismounted detachment of the Household Cavalry were on duty.

The Duke of Edinburgh President of the Royal Society of Arts, attended at an afternoon at Buckingham Palace, to mark the seven-and-a-half anniversary of the inscription of the Order of Merit.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received upon arrival by the Bishop of London (Desmond Her Majesty's Chaplain Royal).

The Lady Susan Hussey, the Right Hon Sir Philip Moore and Lieutenant Robert Guy, RN, were in attendance.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a luncheon to members of the Order of Merit which Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Admiral of the Fleet The Earl Mountbatten of Burma and the Lady Pamela Hicks were present.

The following day, November 18: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh presented the Silver Jubilee Awards for Design Manufacture to the 1977 GEC Design Council Schools Design Prize.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel Welsh Guards left Heathrow Airport, London, this morning in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight for Germany to visit the 1st Battalion on training in Schleswig Holstein.

By command of The Queen, the Earl of Westmorland (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the departure of Sir Zelman Cowen, Governor General of Australia and Lady Cowen and bade farewell on behalf of His Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 17: Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon presented The Hospital Saving Association's Silver Jubilee Awards to winners of The National Division of Leagues of Hospital Friends in The Queen's Birthday Hall.

Miss Jane Egerton-Warburton was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

November 17: The Duke of York Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, today visited the factories of William Morris, Ltd., and John Louden & Sons, Ltd., in Barnsley, during his Export Year visit to Humberside.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Captain James Greenfield.

Birthdays today

Dr Bowes, 84; Viscount Boyd of Montevale, 75; Sir Bruce Fraser, 67; Lieutenant-General Sir Orway Hart, 70; Professor C. A. W. Manning, 53; Lord Rhyd, 71; Sir Alexander Turner, 76; Mr Justice Watkins, VC, 59.

ANDRE PREVIN

Andre Previn, principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, has given you as many hours of pleasure throughout the years as anyone could have wished for. These are the musicians who, unopposed by a person—have suffered serious accidents and illnesses—and have given you as many performances as possible. Now they too have heart-breaking hardships as they wonder how they will manage to survive. To those who have given them what they've given you—and help them, their lives a little more enjoyable.

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RAF Benevolent Fund

The RAF Benevolent Fund spent £1,127,765 on relief of distress during the first nine months of this year. Its convalescent and residential home near Worthing is being extended at a cost of more than £500,000.

Lunchrooms

H.M. Government

Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a reception at 1 Carlton Gardens yesterday in honour of the Colombian Ambassador.

Book Club Associates

Mr S. T. Renouf, Chief Executive, Book Club Associates, presided at a luncheon at Goldsmiths' Hall yesterday, when he presented a donation to the deputy chairman of the National Standing Committee on Management and Members' Services.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. de Pury

Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. de Pury, gave a luncheon for the Royal Artillery Association to his departure, at the City Livery Club, on Wednesday, November 16. Other guests included the Peruvian Ambassador, Mr Michael Snow and Mr R. A. Machell, Chairman of British Rail.

Dinners

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A court dinner of the City of

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Stock Exchange Prices

Late dip in gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 14. Dealings End, Nov 25. § Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 6

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

John Fo
Surge
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Treasury

How the m



John Foord
PLANT AND
MACHINERY
VALUERS

Surge in private bank loans sharpens threat to money target

By John Whitmore

An unexpected surge in bank lending to the private sector in the banking month to mid-October has added a new dimension to the monetary authorities' potential problem in bringing the rate of growth in the money supply back beneath the 13 per cent ceiling envisaged for the financial year to next April.

As had been widely predicted, the growth in sterling M3, the broad-based definition of the money supply, is running above target after the first six months of the financial year.

With a 1.8 per cent increase to £42,890m (seasonally adjusted) in the four weeks to October 19, sterling M3 has grown in the first half of the year at an annualized rate of 14.2 per cent.

If the Government is to meet its full year target of 13 per cent or £42,200m, it must now restrict growth in the remaining six months to 5.8 per cent, an annualized rate of 11.8

While the Government can expect to receive considerable help in this from its decision at the end of October to stop pumping money into the system through the foreign exchange markets—this was done to hold down the value of sterling—it now seems it could be faced with unexpected problems from another major component of monetary growth, bank lending to the private sector.

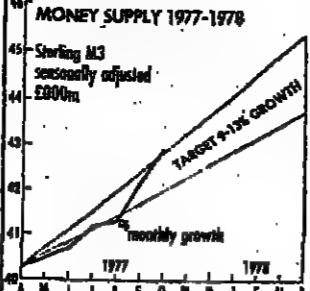
Whereas this had been growing at an average of just under £350m a month in the first five months of the year, growth suddenly shot up to nearly £600m in October.

It may be that this is exceptional and, perhaps, partly compensatory for the below-average growth in the previous month. Even so, it is cause for some concern, the more so since nobody appears too sure as to why it has happened.

The banks themselves have consistently reported lending to be flat yet the figures themselves show that private borrowing from the banking sector has been running at an annualized rate of 14.2500m in the first six months of the year.

Were the last month's figures shown (by next month's figures) to be the start of a new trend towards significantly higher private sector loan demand, the authorities could find themselves faced with a considerable dilemma.

Although they would be most reluctant to take any quantitative measures to curb a



Controls by Tokyo to hold down the yen

By Caroline Atkinson

Emergency controls aimed at holding down the value of the yen were announced yesterday by the Bank of Japan. Money flooding into Japan this year has pushed the yen up by 20 per cent against the dollar, with a rise of more than 8 per cent in the past seven weeks.

This week the Japanese authorities decided to try to hold the yen at the level of 240 to the dollar as concern mounted in Tokyo over the effects on the economy of the large appreciation.

The market's first reaction was to buy back dollars and get rid of long yen positions. The Japanese currency dropped back to 248 yen in about half an hour of hectic trading. The dollar also rebounded against European currencies, touching 2,254 Deutsche marks at one point.

By the afternoon, however, most dealers had decided that the measures would not be able to hold the yen down for long. It came back to close at 245.40 to the dollar, down only 25 points from Wednesday's close.

Inward exchange controls are very difficult to maintain. The Swiss, for example, imposed some inward capital controls which were effective for less than a week.

Official intervention in the market was not sufficient to prevent the yen rising to 243 against the dollar yesterday. Inward exchange controls were therefore announced later this week, which will become effective next week.

The sale of short-term government securities to foreigners is to be suspended from Monday (although as this week's tender has already taken place there will not be an opportunity for foreigners to buy new stock tomorrow).

A reserve requirement of 50 per cent on increases in non-resident bank deposits will be effective from next Tuesday. This will make it less attractive for foreigners to hold yen as Japanese banks will have to deposit 50 per cent of new money with the central bank.

The close cooperation between banks and the authorities means the Japanese may be able to prevent outward capital flow for longer than that, but some dealers were still expecting to see a yen rate of 220 to 230 by the end of the week.

Explaining the move, Mr Peter Norman writes from Tokyo: 'The federal bank yesterday admitted that Government has been overshooting its money supply target by a big margin over the past six months. But in its latest monthly report, it argued that action to restrict the growth of central bank money stock would have been inappropriate, given the sluggishness of the German economy.'

The federal bank report also shows that the money supply grew at an annualized rate of 11.5 per cent between May and October. This more generous dosage of liquidity countered fears that economy recovery in West Germany might be restricted by monetary policy.

Although they would be most reluctant to take any quantitative measures to curb a

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Financial Editor, page 21

Treasury saw overshoot of 13 pc limit as inevitable

Continued from page 1

any prospect of economic recovery, something which senior ministers are not prepared to do.

Even by the time that the decision to allow the pound to float was taken, many in the Treasury were convinced that an overshooting of the 13 per cent ceiling had become inevitable. The float served the double purpose of stopping the increase of money supply through foreign inflows and signalling to the markets that their determination to stop money supply growth getting out of control.

This is because the much broader-based and the rolling form of the targets to be chosen will make it easier for the authorities to ensure that their targets are met. In the current financial year, however, they accept that it will take more good luck than they can reasonably expect to return below the limit.

The figures for next year's target are still far from being

fixed. It seems to be accepted that they should be small enough to allow no real growth in money supply above the minimum in current terms.

The question of the appropriate monetary target for 1978-79 is tied up with the issue of what limits should be set on Domestic Credit Expansion (government and private borrowing from banks) in talks with the International Monetary Fund which begin next week.

Because it now looks as if the surplus on our balance of payments during the 1978-79 financial year will be less than the £2,000m to £3,000m predicted in the IMF Letter of Intent, the DCE limit of £6,000m agreed with the Fund looks to be too small.

This is because the increase in the money supply is, roughly speaking, equal to the expansion of domestic credit plus the surplus on the payments account. A figure of around £7,000m might be sufficient for DCE.

The latest bid valuing Crane at £14.4m is fully supported by the United Kingdom directors

New Inchcape bid values Crane Fruehauf at £14.4m

By Richard Allen

The bitter and prolonged battle for control of Crane Fruehauf, the Norfolk-based trailer group, entered a new stage last night as Inchcape raised its offer to the group to a value of £34.4m a share.

This figure is just over 3p more than the sum offered on Wednesday by rival suitor Fruehauf Corporation of the United States. The Inchape bid is on the basis of a share exchange of 32 of its own ordinary for every 12 of Crane. But there is also a cash alternative of 95p a share.

The latest bid valuing Crane at £14.4m is fully supported by the United Kingdom directors

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

John Foord
CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Richest people in Britain continuing to lose share of wealth, Royal Commission reports

By Melvyn Westlake

The richest people in Britain have continued to see a relative decline in their share of total wealth. Income is spread more equally than in several other major countries, and the combined effects of progressive taxation and benefits have succeeded in bringing about greater equality.

These are among the main conclusions of a new report from the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth, published yesterday. It is the third report on the standing reference since the nine-man commission, under the chairmanship of Lord Diamond, a former Labour minister, was established in the summer of 1974.

Although analysing the ownership and spread of income and wealth in detached and measured terms, the 314-page report contains a mine of raw information about the structure of contemporary British society, which, by its nature, is of highly political significance, with considerable future policy implications.

The report both updates statistics used in earlier reports and presents the results of research projects undertaken by the commission.

It shows that the long-run downward trend in the share of personal wealth owned by the top 1 per cent continued in 1975, their share being reduced from 25

per cent to 24.3 per cent. The share of the bottom 80 per cent increased from 21.9 per cent to 23.8 per cent.

These figures are arrived at after adjustment to include some wealth holdings of people not covered by Inland Revenue figures, and also to allow for under-estimates because of other exclusions.

On the basis of the unadjusted Inland Revenue estimates, the long-term movement towards equality appears to have accelerated in 1975.

The picture for income is similar to that for wealth, with the share of the top 1 per cent of the population declining continuously between 1959 and 1974-75, from 8.4 per cent to 6.2 per cent (pre-tax). The top 10 per cent income earners also saw a relative decline. Those groups that tended to be chief beneficiaries were in the income bands immediately below the top 10 per cent.

Lord Diamond said at a press conference yesterday that although inflation and incomes policy had inevitably been an influence on the distribution pattern of income, these influences were only ripples in the long-term trends which the commission had observed.

Analysts of households with economically active heads show that the average income of owner-occupiers with mortgages exceeds that of those whose homes are owned outright, and they in turn have higher average incomes than local authority tenants.

Inscrutable look about the offer for Glenlivet

To judge by yesterday's stock market reaction, the City is expecting Seagram's bid for Glenlivet to spark off nothing short of a wholesale rationalization of the Scotch whisky industry.

Not only did Glenlivet's own share price soar 20p above its pre-stage level of 50p ahead—but it was followed up by all the other small distillers' shares.

Tomatin was up 18p, Highland Distillers was up 17p, Bell's up 15p and Invergordon 3p.

The speculation is centring particularly on what action will now be taken by Suntory, Japan's leading distiller and a holder of 11 per cent of Glenlivet's equity.

Suntory itself was suitably circumspect. It refused to rule out the possibility of making a bid for Glenlivet and in the meantime said it was making no move. But Glenlivet's shares were evidently being buoyed up by the hope that Suntory would bid, although others in the market are simply betting that Seagram will have to bid higher to get control.

Glenlivet's own board is for the moment reserving judgment.

The real debate, though, is focusing on Suntory's position in the event of Seagram winning control of the distiller. Of all the malt whisky distillers, Suntory has perhaps the highest reputation among connoisseurs, and Suntory buys part of its whisky in bulk to produce its own blends.

The first question is whether Seagram would want to discontinue this arrangement. Unlike Distillers Company, Seagram does not have any policy objections to shipping in bulk, and it is not buying Glenlivet to cover a capacity shortage. It is believed to have spare capacity at its existing distillery Suntory is primarily interested in Glenlivet as an addition at the top end of its range. So there is no obvious reason for a short-term break with Suntory.

Longer term, however, analysts believe that Suntory's position would be vulnerable to a cut in output if Seagram puts its marketing might behind Glenlivet's brands, and Seagram is already making its own efforts to penetrate the Japanese market. The second question, therefore, is where Suntory might turn for alternative supplies.

It already buys from other companies, including, it is understood, Tomatin and Highland Distillers, which produces Bladnoch. Aside from the existing suppliers could produce a direct alternative, in terms of taste, to Glenlivet, the obvious question is whether Suntory might seek an equity holding in another company.

More particularly, since its 11 per cent in Glenlivet has not protected Glenlivet from a bid, might it not be tempted to follow Seagram's lead with an outright purchase?

Christopher Wilkins

Barclaycard cuts interest rate to 1½ pc

By Ronald Polson

Banking Correspondent

Barclaycard yesterday reigned the initiative over the rival Access credit card operation by cutting its monthly interest rate from 14 to 11 per cent.

The change was last reduced on October 5 in response to the Access announcement in mid-September that it was dropping its rate from 14 to 13 per cent. Barclaycard was considering a full half-point cut in its rates, but because of the costs involved in making frequent rate adjustments the group wanted to be convinced that interest rates would not rise again.

Access's response to Barclaycard's move was a holding statement that "we will be considering our own competitive decision".

But with the peak Christmas spending season coming up, it seems likely that Access will have to make a decision fairly quickly, although both credit card groups seem agreed that customers are relatively insensitive to interest rates.

Explaining the move, Mr Frank Snashall, Barclaycard's director of general management, said: "When we reduced our interest rate to 13 per cent it was thought unlikely that the cost of money would fall further. However it has, and we feel it right to pass the benefit to our customers."

He added, however, that it would be difficult to hold this rate if money costs rose unless there was some relaxation in the minimum 15 per cent or £5 repayment rules.

Access emphasised yesterday that any further move on interest rates would not create difficulties between members of the joint credit card company.

Peugeot in £227m deal to build Iran factory

STC wins Swedish phone order

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Correspondent

Mr George Turnbull, the former managing director of British Leyland, has just started a two-year contract with Itron National to consultant to the chairman and managing director.

He recently returned from a similar assignment in South Korea.

Charles Hargrove writes from Paris: Some 100,000 Peugeot cars will be produced in Iran in three years time. The contract signed yesterday has been under negotiation for more than a year. It is expected to lead to the creation of several thousand jobs at Peugeot and with sub-contractors.

Under the contract, Peugeot will supply to Iran a complete plant for the production of a middle range car, the 305, which is launched on the French market recently. It will be equipped with a 1.600cc Peugeot engine produced under licence in Iran.

At the beginning the French group will supply the body, the gearbox and other elements of the vehicle, about 40 per cent of the parts being produced in Iran. But this proportion will be gradually increased as the country's motor industry grows.

He said restyled Hunter-sold in Iran as Paykan-were being prepared for delivery in increasing numbers in 1978 and 1979. In addition discussions were under way about financing the Iranian group.

New car plant opens in Kenya

From Charles Harrison

Nairobi, Nov 17

A plant built by General Motors to assemble 3,000 British and Japanese lorries and pickups each year was opened here today by Mr Mwai Kibaki, Finance Minister.

Kenya's first assembly plant, turning out British Leyland and

German Volkswagen vehicles, was opened early this year and another, to assemble Japanese and French models, is nearing completion.

General Motors is in partnership with the state-owned Industrial and Commercial Investment Corporation in this latest £3.3m project.

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Setback in profit for British Airways

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent
Industrial disputes both within and outside the airline, plus technical problems with their Trident 3 airliner fleet, have reduced British Airways' six-month profit by about £25m before the cost of capital borrowings and taxation.

British Airways said yesterday that their profit for the six busy summer months between April and September was £25m, compared with £23m for the same period last year.

This was on a revenue of £697m, while the revenue for the April-September period of 1976 was £636m. Profit before the cost of capital borrowings and taxation for the six summer months this year was £1m, compared with £83m in 1976. Taxation and minorities had come to £33m this year (£40m in 1976).

British Airways' financial results have been affected this year by a strike of some of their engineers, by a strike of air traffic control assistants, and by the grounding of a large part of their Trident 3 fleet after the discovery of wing cracking.

Sir Frank McFadzean, chairman of British Airways, reported in July a net profit of £25m for the financial year 1976-77. He said then that the strike of engineers in the spring had cost the airline £31m in lost revenue.

Coal chief urges joint effort to raise production

A way must be found by the National Coal Board and the rate to reverse the industry's present downward trend in productivity, Sir Derek Ears, the board's chairman said in South Wales yesterday.

Sir Derek, who was visiting South Wales collieries, welcomed the recent statement by NUM officials including Mr Joe Gormley, the union's president, which recognized that the union, as one of the parties to the industry's investment plan, was committed to meeting the production objectives required to secure the industry's future.

"So far we are not fulfilling the prospects we submitted to the Government—in the form of Plan for Coal—in return for the capital we need and are now getting for the modernization and expansion of the industry. We proposed to increase production by 4 per cent a year; instead it has been falling."

"For the moment coal is still cheaper than oil for most purposes. In the forthcoming wage negotiations it will be essential to maintain that price advantage. What we cannot do is a board, is to pay out more money for less output."

Builders call for review of 'costly' system to defeat tax evasion

By John Huxley

Building leaders have urged the Chancellor to review the operation of a government scheme introduced to tackle tax abuses associated with the "lump".

The scheme—sometimes known as 714 scheme after the tax certificate involved—imposes "heavy and costly administrative burdens on the industry", the National Federation of Building Trades Employers says in a memorandum to Mr Healey.

It must be modified substantially if wasteful bureaucratic excesses are to be avoided.

They point out that "initial compliance costs" for one large construction company were estimated at about £100,000. Case histories of delays and difficulties experienced by other

companies are also given in the memorandum.

The scheme was introduced in April this year, primarily to eliminate tax evasion by workers employed on the "lump" under which sub-contractors are paid a fixed price lump sum.

It requires construction companies, as well as sole traders and partnerships to obtain exemption certificates from the Inland Revenue if they are not to suffer statutory deduction of 34 per cent from payments due to them.

The federation, while accepting the need to curb tax evasion, believes that the scheme's scope and coverage are unnecessarily wide.

Noting that the change to the new system called for costly study and preparation, the federation says that most build-

ing employers found that they were involved in two capacities—both as contractors and sub-contractors.

These two tasks together amounted to a major administrative exercise throughout the industry.

The federation says it is deeply disturbed at the magnitude of the costs already incurred. But its main concern is the continuing administrative burden and costs.

It calls on the Inland Revenue to be reasonable and not seek to penalize companies who make "unintentional errors".

There was widespread opposition within the industry to the introduction of the present scheme. The Treasury, however, estimated that the long-standing abuse of the lump was costing about £10m a year in lost revenue.

Escort output resumes but Ford troubles not over

Production of Escort cars resumed at the Ford plant at Halewood, Liverpool, yesterday after the settlement of separate strikes which cost the company £12m in lost production.

The night shift was recalled last night.

Bute Halewood's problems may not be over. It was learnt that the staff unions at national level had rejected the 12 per cent company pay package which the hourly-paid production workers accepted last month.

Meetings are to be held at the plants and the 1,000 foremen, staff engineers and clerical workers at Halewood are to meet at Widnes on Sunday to consider what, if any, industrial action to take.

The two separate strikes which have hit the Halewood plant for the past 10 days, were settled on Wednesday.

£2,000m earned overseas by construction industry

Tribute to the overseas performance of the construction industry was paid yesterday by Mr Reg Freeson, Minister for Housing and Construction.

Last year more than 25 per cent of the United Kingdom's favourable trade balance on invisible earnings came from the efforts of our building and civil engineering consultants and contractors—a point which those who praised shipping banking and insurance would do well to remember, he told an International Congress on Civil Engineering Contracts.

This was no mean achievement for the industry, bearing in mind the strength of competition for construction projects in the Third World countries. Earnings overseas by the industry last year were more than £2,000m.

"British consulting engineers, architects and surveyors have been active overseas for years. They have built up an enviable reputation with foreign clients."

"Our building and civil engineering contractors have a longer history of overseas operations than those of any other country.

Mr Reg Freeson

in the previous month to \$12,400m in the third quarter to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$147,800m.

Senator William Proxmire, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, yesterday released a statement calling for a simple direct, meaningful tax cut at the beginning of 1978 to get the economy moving again.

The most striking feature of the revised figures is the sharp rise in the price index, which is viewed as the best price indicator in the gnp data, now said to have gained by only 4.4 per cent at an annual rate.

Higher exports and higher inventory investment were the main contributors to the upward revision in the gnp estimate.

In the second quarter of this year real gnp rose at an annual rate of 6.2 per cent, with the

\$7,600m in the third quarter to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$147,800m.

Last month the department said the real gnp in the third quarter rose by 3.4 per cent, but today it stated that revised figures show the rate of growth to have been 4.4 per cent.

The most striking feature of the revised figures is the sharp rise in the price index, which is viewed as the best price indicator in the gnp data, now said to have gained by only 4.4 per cent at an annual rate.

Calls for a tax cut are being heard with increasing frequency from both Democratic and Republican politicians and they appear to have considerable support within the Administration.

According to the Federal Reserve, increases in industrial output were widespread among products and most materials last month. The Index of industrial production has risen by 6.8 per cent during the past 12 months.

Fewer first time house buyers get mortgages

By Margaret Stone

At a time when the Government is preparing legislation to help first-time house buyers, evidence available from the building societies indicates that 47.3 per cent of all advances in the third quarter of the year went to new owner-occupiers.

In the previous quarter nearly 50 per cent went to first-time buyers. New owner-occupiers last quarter paid an average of £10,832 for their homes and borrowed 78.6 per cent. By contrast, former owners' advances paid an average £16,386, of which they borrowed 56.1 per cent.

The figures are contained in statistics released yesterday by the Department of the Environment based on a 5 per cent sample survey of building society mortgages at the completion stages. In other words, the house prices listed are about six weeks out of date.

In the third quarter borrowers were buying houses at an average price of 2.63 times their average recorded income, and obtained advances on average of 47.7 times their income.

The average house price in 1973, however, was £29,942 compared with an average house price of £13,773 recorded in the third quarter of this year. (It was £13,322 the previous quarter.)

In the latest quarter 10 per cent of all mortgages went on homes with an average price of less than £7,500; 53 per cent on homes below the average price of £13,773 while homes costing more than £20,000 accounted for just over 13 per cent of advances.

Regional house prices ranged from £10,822 in Yorkshire and Humberside to £16,930 in Greater London. Compared with prices a year ago, the areas where house prices are rising fastest are Northern Ireland, Scotland and Northern England.

But the most important factor is the rapidly developing trend towards computer users purchasing equipment from a number of suppliers to create a "mixed system". Experience shows that in the event of a fault, this can lead in debates between the maintenance engineers of the various equipment suppliers as to whose equipment is causing the trouble. A third party maintenance organization usually has to accept responsibility for the total system, and get on with the job, or lose the contract. The upshot is that the user benefits.

Yours sincerely,
MAX L. EASTWELL,
General Manager, U.K.
Data Processing Customer
Engineering Pty Ltd,
81 Hersham Road,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey, KT12 1NQ.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Monopolistic' attitude to computer maintenance

From Mr M. L. Eastwell

Sir, Mr P. V. Ellis, in his letter (November 13) defended ICL's computer maintenance policy by pointing out the heavy investment in diagnostic routines the company had made. His argument is tantamount to those originally designed by the equipment manufacturer, to help them maintain customers' computing systems effectively.

In the USA, constrained by the Consent Decree of 1956, IBM adopted certain business practices, including:

(a) "To offer training to outsiders in or easier repair and maintenance of equipment (with certain exceptions) and to provide instruction manuals." (b) "To allow customers to alter or attach equipment to certain parts and subassemblies, and instruction manuals."

IBM has complied readily, both in the USA and worldwide, whether or not IBM customers used third party maintenance. This responsible attitude has enhanced IBM's reputation in the marketplace.

Perhaps it would be wise for Mr Ellis to have a close look at the key objectives of ICL. In other words, what is the purpose for which ICL is in business, in fact what is the purpose for which all computer manufacturers are in business. I would suggest that

1. To research, design and subsequently build good computer products.

2. To market these products to computer users.

3. To provide the normal support facilities extended by manufacturers in other technical industries to their customers, such facilities being the ready supply of spare parts, diagnostics, documentation and technical support.

After all, highly technical industries such as the aircraft industry and the motor car industry provide readily to the purchaser or maintainer of the equipment such facilities. It is of some concern to me to know why computer suppliers, and in particular ICL, retain a monopolistic attitude to the maintenance of their equipment.

Surely the generally excellent products ICL is offering to the customer should be fully backed by provision of such diagnostic procedures in the normal course of business?

Implications of Didcot for freight policy

From Mr Mick Hamer

Sir, The possible closure of the inland port of Didcot (November 15) is likely to concern not only the railway workers mentioned in your report but also all those who want to stem the ever-increasing number of heavy lorries.

With the South Africa-Southampton trade being containerised between now and the end of 1978, the forced closure of Didcot, due to unofficial action by the Transport and General Workers' Union, would cause a large increase in road freight.

The recent Transport Policy White Paper committed the Government to working for a free market in freight. Yet for a free market to work in practice the conditions of competition between road and rail must be fair. And if Didcot is forced to close that will plainly not be the case.

Didcot thus presents a major challenge to the Government's new freight policy. If the Government fails to resolve this dispute and Didcot does close, the Government's freight policy will be seen not as a free-market policy but as a pro-heavy lorry policy.

Yours faithfully,
MICK HAMER,
Director,
Transport 2000,
40 James Street, W1M 5HS.

Architects' fees

From Mr H. N. Grillo

Sir, Why should the Government not be ready to act by statute against any trade union which happens to call itself the Royal Institute of British Architects (and which does not have a monopoly of building design), setting a rate for the remuneration of its members, when any other trade union, which may have its monopoly protected by a closed shop, can make demands for the remuneration of its members which the Government is not prepared to curtail by law?

Yours faithfully,
H. N. GRILLO,
Mark House,
Roke Lane,
Witney,
Surrey.

Understanding the function of the City

From Mr G. E. Price

Sir, The article by Eric Moonman and the related letters of Messrs Guinan and Ogden (October 25 and November 1) surely deserve further comment: the subject, in question, for the people of this country.

I am sure Messrs Moonman and Ogden sincerely wish to improve the value of life in Britain, but their misplaced criticism of the City unfortunately threatens all our living standards. To suggest, as Mr Moonman does, that ignorance about the City is its great strength is a pointless observation. Ignorance is almost total in respect of most skilled occupations: coal mining, dentistry, pattern making, tailoring, wherever.

The City's strength owes nothing to ignorance. It is that those who need to use its services most fully understand its skills. But if those whom it serves—directors of companies, heads of local authorities or of

not the City have a dictate in that matter.

A City friend, head of a great pension fund, recently told me that in the space of a few weeks his fund made profits of £4m in Government securities. One man, an insurance director, took a few hours, a dozen telephone calls, have jointly generated as much money as a cull of miners working for a solid three months.

I suspect my gut reaction—obscene—parallels that of Moonman and Ogden, but get reaction is foolish if it flies in the face of reason. To the question that headed Mr Moonman's article, "Is the City really the villain? some people think it is," the answer is "Certainly, not—rather seek to curb envy with rational reflection."

Yours faithfully,
G. E. PRICE,
47 Thomas More House,
Barbican,
London, EC2
November 7.

Braby Leslie Ltd

Mechanical and Civil Engineers

INTERIM STATEMENT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1977

The unaudited results for the half-year ended 30th September 1977 are given below together with the comparative figures for the half-year ended 30th September 1976 and the full year ended 31st March 1977.

The results include post-acquisition turnover and profit before tax of £2,505,000 and £267,000 respectively from E. C. Payter & Company Limited acquired on 1st July 1977, and S. Briggs & Company Limited, acquired on 1st September 1977 with effect from 1st April 1977.

Half-year ended 30th September 1977 £'000 Year ended 31st March 1977 £'000

Turnover 15,417 10,757 23,658

Trading Profit 1,212 890 1,651

Interest Payable (56) (82) (136)

PRE-TAX PROFIT 1,156 808 1,515

Taxation (note 1) (447) (301) (294)

NET PROFIT after taxation and before extraordinary items 709 507 1,221

Extraordinary items — — (596)

Earnings per Ordinary Share (note 2) 8.4p 8.0p 17.7p

Earnings per Ordinary Share assuming full tax charge at 52% " 6.6p 6.1p 10.5p

Net tangible assets per Ordinary Share " 73.7p 66.3p 70.2p

NOTES:

1.—The low taxation charge is due to the fact that provision has been made for deferred taxation only to the extent that there is reasonable probability that stock values will reduce in the foreseeable future.

2.—The earnings and net tangible assets per Ordinary Share at 30th September

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Towards higher interest rates

It never rains but it pours for the monetary authorities. Having moved to "save their money supply target by ceasing to pump sterling into the foreign exchange market, they immediately find themselves faced with the possibility that bank lending to the private sector may be on the verge of growing far more rapidly than expected. Last month it grew by almost £600m (seasonally adjusted), taking the annualized rate of increase after six months up to just over £4,500m.

To what extent the figure for the latest month will prove a quirk remains to be seen, and the authorities are, as I suggested yesterday, unlikely to be panicked into counter measures just yet. But were bank lending to remain at a relatively high level from now on, the authorities task in getting back inside the projected 13 per cent ceiling for sterling M3 growth by next April will obviously be formidable.

To meet the ceiling, growth in sterling M3 needs to be restricted to under £2,500m over the second six months of the year, a period moreover when the public sector contribution to monetary growth is going to be more positive than it has been in the opening six months.

How the authorities might react if they find themselves in a corner by Christmas is a matter of speculation. There could be a temptation to press the case that exceptional factors in the first half of 1977-78—albeit of their own making—provide mitigating circumstances, and that what is important is the future trend.

It would certainly be interesting to see how such an attitude would wash in financial markets. The danger would clearly be that such a line would not only serve to compound the problem but also undermine credibility in the flexibility the authorities would like to give themselves through the introduction next spring of rolling money supply targets. Meanwhile, one way or the other, the day of the upward correction in short-term interest rates looks to be drawing steadily closer.

Shell Currency distortions

Stripping out the by-now ritual currency distortions, the message from Shell's third quarter results is that world oil products markets remain extremely sluggish and are likely to remain so for at least the next two or three quarters. And the figures tell just far enough short of stockmarket expectations to leave the shares 11p easier at 564p.

Underlining the kind of smoke-screen currencies have become at Shell, third quarter net income of £529m bears no comparison at all with last year's £176m. Then net income had to contend with currency losses of £178m whereas for the same period this year there has been a

During the fourth quarter fuel oil and natural gas should show their seasonal upturn but set against that there could be further stock losses percolating through from July's Opec price rise and the rise in sterling. Full year net income should still fall in the £1,350-£1,400m range for a prospective p/e ratio of just under 6. The sluggish oil market, however, is likely to squeeze Shell's downstream operations more than the crude-rich British Petroleum although Shell's acre is still its yield attractions when it is free to pay up the 21p of stored up dividends.

Beecham

Impetus from overseas

Given evidence of flat demand in Europe reflected in recent results from Courtaulds and Unilever, the 19 per cent improvement in Beecham's profits for the half-year to September at £70.6m comes as a pleasant surprise, although the comparative figures have been adjusted to take out currency gains.

While profits in the United Kingdom were up, apparently, by around 11%, despite heavy involvement in soft drinks, which suffered from the poor summer weather, the real growth areas seem to have been in the Far East for consumer products and in North and South America with pharmaceuticals.

This is despite a natural slowing down in the growth of the amoxycillin anti-biotics, which have been such a boon to the group. But with ever greater penetration of the new drugs throughout world markets, further growth must be limited, and unlike Glaxo, Beecham apparently has no new major drugs coming to the market in the next couple of years.

There are other growth possibilities, Calgon in the United States, which was loss-making after a major expansion programme appears to be moving ahead faster than expected, although the contribution in the half, after interest charges, appears negligible, and prospects in the third world remain good.

However currency effects will be more marked in the second half and profit estimates for the year are around £150m. Against Glaxo, the attractions of the shares are that the 200 per cent dividend increase as an indirect result of the Calgon acquisition, has given a yield of 4.5 per cent at 625p, although its growth prospects do not look quite so good.

Redland

Holding the line

Redland continues to make the best of severely depressed conditions in the construction industry. In fact, at the interim stage profits are actually up by 7 per cent at £17.8m. But Redland has relied heavily on its associate companies particularly in Australia for much of the running; they managed an improvement in profits of around a third to £4.26m.

At home conditions remain bleak with a 3 per cent sales increase to £59m masking an overall drop in volume of around 8 per cent, with exceptional growth in the brick division compensating for volume falls of as much as 10 per cent in roof tiles and aggregates stretching to 35 per cent in the concrete pipes business.

Apart from Australia the picture is almost as dreary overseas. West Germany still shows few signs of staging a construction recovery. However, Redland is already beginning to see some benefits from new ventures particularly in the Middle East.

Profits this year look like being around £37m for a p/e ratio of just over 8 with the shares, at 130p, here the dividend yield would be under 5 per cent but covering, assuming adoption of BD19, would be around 4.5 times.

As for next year, housing provides some room for optimism since private and public starts are expected to climb to 230,000. Together with more money going back into public spending on construction projects, there is some scope in the shares, particularly if dividend restraints are removed.



Mr Michael Pocock, head of the Royal Dutch Shell group.

bonus of £15m—stock-losses of perhaps £8m trimming back the gain on overseas debt—which after minorities has meant an unadjusted decline from £397m to £364m.

On the trading side, sales volume has seen practically no progress with a 7 per cent drop in Europe excluding the United Kingdom offset, by increases elsewhere in Japan, Australia and South America, while Shell Oil in the United States was only marginally ahead. Chemicals remain the bleakest product area with margins under pressure as a result of the difficulty in getting price increases to stick in the market place, although Shell is showing no signs of backpedalling on its big investment programme yet awhile.

Business Diary: Elderfield ahoy • Trade-a-secret

British Shipbuilders has at last found itself a finance man, Maurice Elderfield, finance director of Ferranti, to serve as full-time member of the board. Elderfield takes up his new job on December 1, leaving the only full-time post at the state body, that of personnel member, to be filled.

It will be recalled that the mass resignations of executive members of the organizing committee of British Shipbuilders last winter, sparked off by the departure of Graham Day, the chief executive designate, left the Department of Industry with the task of scouting around for new talent.

Elderfield has now accepted the job that would have gone to Pat Griffith, full-time finance director of the organizing committee and one of three executives who resigned in January largely as the result of frustration over delays in getting the state shipbuilding concern off the ground.

The new man, who is 51, should prove to be well qualified to oversee the financial aspects of a nationalized industry. His early career included posts with Forstall, Land, Timber and Railway Company and the Stephens Group but in 1960 he began a 13-year stint with the South Eastern Gas Board, rising to board member and director of

For the next two years he was director of finance for the Southern Water Authority and since 1975 has been with the Post Office as board member for finance followed by his present job at the NEB-controlled Ferranti.

He is to be succeeded at

Ferranti by Harry Kirkham, who has been with the group for at least 20 years and is presently the company accountant.

We asked what Elderfield's salary would be, but nobody in the state corporation would tell us. Open government, you know.

American government officials and businessmen in the United States have been complaining loudly for a long time that the Japanese have devised all manner of methods to keep our American goods.

So loud have these cries grown that the Japanese have decided to reveal a few trade secrets.

The United States and Japanese governments have agreed to create a bizarre "US-Japan Trade Facilitation Committee" to teach Americans how to sell to Japan.

Moreover, the Japanese are going to help the Americans to make their export promotion programme more effective by studying ways of changing the Japanese distribution and sales system. According to American authorities the plan is designed to explore "ways to reduce or eliminate specific difficulties United States firms encounter with Japanese trade practices and procedures."

A series of seminars have been planned for the next six months at a host of United States cities to educate Americans—Japanese businessmen will be involved in telling Americans some tricks of the Japanese trade.

When the Japanese start using United States cameras, driving American cars and importing American steel, then

they will be well placed to benefit from the Japanese's expertise in selling to the United States.

This new effort will have proved itself indeed.

No prizes for guessing what share Barclays Unicorn has just added to the portfolio of its mythical Unicorn Jubilee unit trust. (Clue: Princess Anne went home from hospital yesterday.) For the benefit of republicans, the answer is Mothercare.

The fund, "launched" on February 6, anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne, is made up of shares with regal sounding names. The list includes Coronation Syndicate, Court Brothers, Greene King, Imperial Group, Prince of Wales Hotel and Royal Sovereign Pencill to name but a random few.

And guess what? It has done remarkably well. Twelve of the 17 shares have risen and the overall gain is 54 per cent compared with a rise of 22 per cent in the FT Ordinary share index. Royalists and republicans alike can be forgiven for wishing the fund was real.

British, but the same cannot be said of some other products of the Nazi era.

American scientists are now trying to unearth the processes by which the Germans converted coal into synthetic oil and oil products. Before the war, the Germans imported about 85 per cent of their oil; by the end they were making three-quarters of their fuel synthetically.

The American team, Kurt Igolic, Arnold Kramer and Richard Walberg, have told a subcommittee of the House of Representatives that even if they crack the secret, the conversion would only be a stop-gap until nuclear and solar energy sources were better developed.

These are hard times for the construction industry but not, according to some of the things on show at the Interbuild Exhibition, for everybody else. Among the eight miles of goodies at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, is a £9,500 bed (with built-in refrigerator, television, coffee machine and hi-fi). There is also a £2,500 cooker. This doesn't have a built-in bed, but it does have a computer which stores "more than 100 mouth-watering recipes". The rest is rather more realistic. There is a special selection of appliances powered by sun, wind or water.

No less realistic is an offer of a week in Greece for two from the National Council of Building Material Producers for anyone who can come up with a slogan that will help revive the construction industry.

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Opening up the magic picture box

Techniques that provide action replays of sports events on television can play important roles also in industry, medicine and defence. A magic box of video tricks has been opened up, whose full contents have yet to be explored.

The techniques are based on the digital processing of video images. Digital processing of facts and figures in computers has been a familiar business for many years. Now sounds and pictures, too, can be electronically manipulated in digital form.

This digital information can be manipulated electronically in different ways, so that the television picture itself is also transformed. This makes

Quantel has concentrated on a range of equipment designed for television broadcasting organizations. Different "black boxes" handle different functions, but all are based on the use of microcircuit "frame stores"—solid-state memory units which can store all the digital electronic information needed to reproduce single frames of high-quality colour television.

In a studio drama production, in which the action is recorded on videotape, the producer or editor can trim the picture to remove an intrusive microphone boom or an anachronistic telephone kiosk in a historical production, or to correct other faults. Previously the scene would have to be re-shot or transferred to film, corrected and then transferred back again to magnetic tape.

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In sports television coverage the Quantel device can provide special optical effects that formerly could be achieved only with editing on film. Part of a football match, for instance, could be played back not only in slow motion but after zooming in or enlarging and following the ball.

The television producer in the studio can zoom in to give a four-fold magnification of a part of the picture, or zoom out to reduce the size down to a pinpoint. He can zoom in and follow a particular

element of the picture (a moving person or vehicle, for example). He can add and manipulate a quarter-screen inset picture.

In a studio drama production, in which the action is recorded on videotape, the producer or editor can trim the picture to remove an intrusive microphone boom or an anachronistic telephone kiosk in a historical production, or to correct other faults. Previously the scene would have to be re-shot or transferred to film, corrected and then transferred back again to magnetic tape.

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Medical information on an X-ray picture can thus be selectively enhanced. The same principle can be applied in the case of military surveillance—for example, with an image of a wood containing enemy vehicles. Another military application would be to provide security coding of images—the video equivalent of a "scrambled" telephone conversation.

In traffic control, it would be possible (but expensive) to develop a system in which a television camera would automatically track particular vehicles and, if necessary, display their speeds.

The digital video techniques would enable more realistic photo pictures to be produced by the police. The principle would be the same as the conventional assembly of line drawings of the face, but the resulting pictures, using photographs as the base, would be more realistic and could show more detail.



An example of a Japanese plant at work in Britain: a Sony engineer and Welsh worker at the company's Bridgend, South Wales factory.

from Japan and the United States.

The committee suggested.

The Bow Group, which favoured a go-ahead for Hitachi with safeguards, reached its decision only partly because it was predictably against protectionism. With Europe clearly the next target for the Japanese after scooping so much of the United States market in a savage price war,

Hitachi, if it could not find a European base in Britain, would presumably go to West Germany. This would be the next best option as far as a large base market was concerned, the committee pointed out, but the British industry would still suffer.

Other tactical considerations aside, this is the cardinal argument for allowing the Japanese to base themselves in Britain, thus at least getting the benefit of their investment and the jobs it would produce—unless, of course, there were overall EEC action to avoid the extent of the penetration suffered in the United States market, at least until the Japanese showed greater willingness to let in European exports.

That could be the next hand but one in this seemingly interminable poker game.

Japanese Investment or Trade Protection? Bow Publications, 40p.

Before you mow the lawn with it, Smurfit print and package it.



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Smurfit

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80 operating units employing 9,000 people.

London & Provincial Shop Centres

Results for year ended 24th June, 1977

- Profits have increased by 34% to £437,000 derived solely from rental income.
- Properties held for investment will be professionally reviewed next year and it is estimated that there will be an increase over book value.
- The major development programme is progressing satisfactorily; three buildings are under construction at a cost of £4.4m., including Westpoint, an 80,000 sq. ft. air-conditioned office block in Slough, Berkshire.
- A £2m. property sale has further improved the Group's financial strength.
- Annual rental income will be increased by £660,000 progressively over the next ten years from rent reviews, based on current rental values.

	1977	1976
	£	£
Rental income	£1,030,000	807,000
Profits before tax	437,000	326,000
Properties	18,391,000	20,005,000
Net assets per share	103p	102p
Gross dividend	11.12%	10.16%

Report and accounts available from The Secretary, London & Provincial Shop Centres (Holdings) Ltd., 28, South Street, London, W1Y 5PZ.

THE BRITISH & COMMONWEALTH SHIPPING COMPANY LIMITED

INTERIM STATEMENT

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 4.25p per Ordinary Stock Unit of 50p in respect of the year ending 31st December, 1977 (1976—4p).

The increase in the interim dividend utilises 0.25 pence out of a total increase permitted under present legislation for the Company's year 1977 of 0.30313 pence per Ordinary Stock Unit.

The dividend will be payable on 10th January, 1978, to stockholders registered at the close of business on 9th December, 1977.

A statement, with explanatory notes, is given below, showing the estimated Group profit for the six months to 30th June, 1977, with comparative figures for the corresponding period of the previous year and the actual figures for the year 1976.

UNAUDITED GROUP PROFITS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1977

	Actual Year to 31st Dec		
NOTE	6 months to 30th June 1977	1976	1976
	£'000	£'000	£'000
GROSS REVENUE	117,300	102,000	218,100
PROFIT FROM SHIPPING, AVIATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES	17,395	15,107	30,382
PROFIT ON SALE OF SHIPS	—	1,832	3,392
DEPRECIATION INTEREST PAID in respect of trading assets	7,061	6,822	13,458
OPERATING PROFIT OTHER INCOME	1,467	1,302	2,514
OPERATING PROFIT OTHER INCOME	8,528	8,124	15,972
LESS: Other interest paid	1,867	8,815	17,802
TAXATION	3,027	1,504	7,382
11,894	10,419	25,184	
MINORITY INTERESTS	393	312	810
5,648	5,145	12,295	
NOTES	6,041	5,457	13,105
1. OPERATING PROFIT	5,853	4,962	12,079
Shipping	1,087	846	1,425
Air Transport	4,766	4,116	10,254
Aviation Support Services	—	—	(2,145)
Leisure Industry (See Note)	—	—	—
Office Equipment	707	377	—
Other Activities	1,327	1,312	—
Profit on Sale of Ships	9,522	7,628	—
Realised Currency Losses	—	1,832	—
NOTES:	(655)	(645)	—
2. TAXATION	(655)	1,187	—
8,867	8,815	—	

NOTE: Owing to the seasonal nature of the business of hotel operating the results for the half-year to June will not be maintained in the second half of the year.

2. TAXATION The charge for taxation for the six months ended 30th June, 1977, gives an effective rate of 53.09%. The charge for the six months ended 30th June, 1976, has been adjusted to correspond with the effective rate of 54.02% on the profits for the year 1976.

3. ASSOCIATED COMPANIES In accordance with previous practice, attributable profits of associated companies have been included in the estimated results for the respective half-years and actual results for the year to 31st December, 1976, to the extent only of dividends received or declared within the appropriate periods. The advent of containerisation of the South African trade and the consequent increase in the shareholding in Overseas Containers Ltd, effective from 1st September, 1977, means that from that date the profits of a major part of the shipping activity will be represented by an increased share of profits arising within Overseas Containers Ltd.

Having regard to this fundamental change, it has been decided to amend the previous basis of accounting for the results of associated companies and to include in the Profit & Loss Account for the year ending 31st December, 1977, the attributable profits of the principal associated companies of the Group. South African Marine Corporation Ltd. is not regarded by the Directors as an associated company.

4. FORECAST FOR THE YEAR Present indications are that the profit for the year (including the attributable results of the principal associated companies) after taxation and deduction for minority interests but before any extraordinary items will show a satisfactory increase as compared with the profit of £3,360,000 achieved in 1976.

17th November, 1977.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Davis makes more in six months than in year

By Ronald Pullen

Continued improvement from the rental operations and the strong showing of the Ford dealership network have helped Godfrey Davis to a much-improved first half.

Pre-tax profits at the six months to the end of September jumped from £1.42m. to £2.55m.—some £100,000 more than the whole of the past year.

The rental side has benefited especially from the high utilization of the car fleet while the strength of the second-hand car market has meant good profits on the disposal of the hire fleet.

The growth in money supply had a more pronounced effect on the gilt-edged market with both ends of the range falling sharply as sellers, some of whom reported to be overseas, came in late in the session.

At the long end prices had slipped one quarter by mid-morning but held steady at that

Stock markets

Investors stay on strike despite Beecham

With industrial jitters continuing to keep the big investors on the sidelines figures from Beecham provided dealers with a crumb of comfort in an otherwise gloomy session.

The unresolved firemen's strike and the prospect of similar militancy from other groups of public sector workers bore heavily on early sentiment and the mood was not helped by a depressing set of money supply figures.

The course of the day was well set by the FT Index which was 4.5 down by midday but an hour later had risen by a full three points after the Beecham statement. By the close it was 3.3 off at 1,810.

The growth in money supply had a more pronounced effect on the gilt-edged market with both ends of the range falling sharply as sellers, some of whom reported to be overseas, came in late in the session.

At the long end prices had slipped one quarter by mid-morning but held steady at that

level until the selling became more persistent around 3.30 pm. By the official close falls ranged between two-quarters and a full point though some trading after hours put many stocks a quarter firmer again.

Though off the bottom shorter maturities lost three-eighths.

The lack of genuine investment demand makes it extremely difficult for observers to discern a trend in a volatile and professional market.

But it is now clear of the index scaling new peaks in the foreseeable future and it is likely that the "bears" will continue to hold sway until the course of the current round of

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividends by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a—loss; b—forecast; c—ranked.

LATEST RESULTS

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Alida Pack (I)	4.6 (3.5)	0.33 (0.27)	—(—)	2.2 (2.0)	—	(5.6)
Beecham (I)	1.5 (1.2)	0.18 (0.12)	2.30 (2.23)	9.5 (2.8)	—	(6.1)
Bell & Evans (I)	20.5 (20.0)	2.33 (2.7)	1.31 (1.3)	2.6 (2.1)	3/1	0.75 (N/I)
Br. & S. (I)	4.3 (3.7)	0.15 (0.01)	5.30 (1.30)	0.75 (N/I)	6/1	(2.9)
Black Arrow (I)	2.6 (2.5)	0.14 (0.07)	1.8 (0.9)	0.6 (0.3)	20/12	(0.8)
Brab. Leaf (I)	14.5 (10.7)	1.1 (0.80)	8.48 (8.48)	2.0 (1.75)	15/1	5.45 (4.45)
C. & C. Ships (I)	13.9 (10.2)	0.70 (0.45)	5.20 (2.52)	4.2 (3.2)	10/1	(2.7)
Caledonia Inv (I)	2.9 (2.8)	1.5 (1.5)	5.19 (4.84)	3.75 (3.53)	11/1	(7.5)
C.C.H. Inv (I)	1.8 (1.6)	0.08 (0.04)	—(—)	—(—)	—	(N/I)
Cockedge (I)	2.6 (1.4)	0.29 (0.12)	0.82 (0.81)	—(—)	—	(—)
Cummins Inv (I)	—(—)	0.05 (0.02)	0.96 (0.22)	0.8 (0.7)	23/12	0.4 (0.4)
Godfrey Davis (I)	40.0 (29.9)	2.5 (2.0)	9.5 (9.5)	2.7 (2.9)	—	(0.74)
Gr. & S. Ind (I)	32.2 (26.3)	1.0 (0.55)	8.87 (4.63)	1.44 (1.3)	17/1	(2.5)
Int. Paint (I)	11.8 (9.5)	10.2 (9.3)	6.68 (6.34)	6.6 (6.2)	6/2	(16.2)
Kayser Brotter (I)	6.8 (7.2)	0.38 (0.28)	—(—)	—	—	(N/I)
Messing (Tires) (I)	9.5 (7.2)	0.5 (0.24)	26 (25)	10 (25)	—	50 (51)
Nat. Caravans (I)	14.2 (11.0)	0.36 (0.28)	2.30 (2.27)	1.85 (1.75)	5/1	2.85 (2.45)
Nat. Amalg. Inv (I)	1.0 (0.85)	0.23 (0.15)	7.29 (6.23)	1.0 (1.0)	16/12	(2.5)
Ocean Wilkins (I)	17.1 (17.2)	1.4 (1.2)	7.77 (7.37)	2.09 (1.73)	16/1	(3.7)
Redland (I)	58.7 (57.0)	32.0 (29.6)	6.5 (4.08)	—(—)	—	(10.0)
Ryl. Dutch Pet (Q)	5,550.0 (5,020.0)	0.41 (0.42)	5.35 (5.29)	2.01 (1.89)	22/12	5.4 (5.4)
Sets & Mts (I)	—(—)	0.01 (0.01)	4.48 (4.48)	0.01 (0.01)	—	(0.51)
Spurway (I)	—(—)	0.46 (0.35)	1.40 (1.13)	0.61 (0.73)	—	0.61 (0.73)
State Gds (I)	—(—)	0.52 (0.25)	3.09 (1.33)	0.70 (0.63)	—	(1.8)
Valeo Co (I)	—(—)	0.05 (0.03)	1.72 (1.23)	0.6 (0.5)	3/1	(1.7)
Viewforth Inv (I)	—(—)	0.05 (0.06)	0.58 (0.34)	0.95 (0.95)	1/2	2.1 (2.1)
Viners (I)	4.8 (4.7)	1.4 (1.2)	1.14 (0.83)	1.0 (0.8)	—	(N/I)
Witac Inv (I)	—(—)	0.04 (0.02)	0.93 (0.456)	—(—)	—	(N/I)
Yordgreen Inv (I						

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Profit rise on cards at Brit & Comm

By Alison Mitchell

British & Commonwealth Shipping Company has set sail for calmer waters. On the back of a 14 per cent rise in profits in the first six months of this year the directors anticipate a "satisfactory" increase for the full 12 months.

After tax profits, after extraordinary items, are expected comfortably to top 1976's £13.5m.

The group has announced a long-awaited change in accounting policy. The containerisation of the South African trade and the resultant increase in the British & Commonwealth holding in Overseas Containers has prompted the group to include a share of profits from this company in the profit and loss account. In the past only the appropriate dividends have appeared.

British & Commonwealth increased its stake in Overseas Containers from 7.6 per cent to 20 per cent earlier this year. This accounting change, which will affect results for the year to December 31, 1977, will also be made for the other principal associated companies of the group. However South African Marine Corporation is not to be regarded as a major

associated company in this instance.

On a gross revenue of £117m, against £107m, the group earned pre-tax profits of £11.9m in the six months to June 30. This compares with £10.4m for the first six months of 1976.

Part of the increase came from air transport and support services, which takes in British Island Airways. Operating profits rose from £2.9m to £3.1m in the period. Up to £10m had been earmarked by the group to expand this division. Five aircraft were to have been bought to operate new Continental routes out of Garwick. However the Civil Aviation Authority has rejected the BIA application for the routes.

The proposal of the loss-making BCA travel help, the leisure division, turned from £822,000 loss into a profit of £26,000 in the six months but the directors warn shareholders that the seasonal nature of the hotels operated in the Canaries and Cape Town could see them slip back into the red.

The operating profit on the shipping side amounted to £3.5m compared with £1.07m. The chances are that it will do better.

Mr Michael Montague, chairman, tells shareholders that the outcome for the full year will be influenced by the severity of winter, but he believes that the present trend will be maintained.

If in the second half of this year simply equals the last six months of 1976-77, the year's pre-tax profit could top £13m compared with £10.7m.

British and Commonwealth shares rose 6p.

First-half figures double at Valor

By Victor Felstead

Confirmation that things are still going in the right direction for Valor, the heater, cooker and engineering group, comes in the latest interim statement.

Turnover 26 per cent greater at £18.43m, pre-tax profits rose to £523,000 in the 26 weeks to September 30. Moreover, this improvement is a bit better than it appears, as the first 26 weeks of the current year are being compared with the first 28 weeks of last year.

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Foreign Exchange

Wide swings in the yen featured in London exchange markets yesterday, following moves announced in Tokyo to curb speculation in the currency, which has gone from strength to strength over a long period.

At the outset, record "highs" were reached of around 244.10 and 242.90 respectively in Tokyo and London. The final close was 234.10 to the dollar, just 25 points off.

The pound reached \$1.8225-30 early and thereafter fluctuated with the dollar and major European currencies to end at \$1.8195, just 20 points above the opening.

During the day there had been indications of a sizable shortage of credit, and rates that were tentatively 4½ per cent had worked up to 4¾ per cent by about midday. Then, as authorities moved to some Treasury Bills, Lira money began to come out very readily, and rates tumbled until balances were finally being taken in the band of 2½ per cent to 3 per cent.

The chief factors for the day included a fairly large excess of Exchequer disbursements over Revenue receipts, a slight fall in the coin circulation, and clearance of cash for redemption in money in respect of 2 per cent Treasury 1977.

The adverse items included rundown balances brought over from Wednesday by the Bank and a substantial Treasury bill take-up.

Discount market

Discount houses faced a shortage of fresh funds yesterday though this proved less of an obstacle than had seemed likely during the morning. In the end, the Bank of England gave help on a considerably larger scale than of Treasury bills directly from the discount houses and this assistance appeared to have been somewhat overdone. Money became very expensive.

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Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 5%.

New York 1.35-1.375% November 17 1.35-1.375%

Australia 1.35-1.375% November 17 1.35-1.375%

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Careers in Management

THE FEDERATION OF CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS

The Federation, the employers' organisation which represents civil engineering contractors in dealings with Government departments, trade unions and other organisations, is seeking three specialists to join its team of officials in London, as follows:

1. ECONOMIST/STATISTICIAN

To report to the Director, Economic Trends affecting the industry. Work will include the preparation and presentation of information on construction and allied affairs. Knowledge of the construction industry and ability to interpret and comment on it and to write reports essential. Experience in committee work desirable. This post could satisfy general economic needs in providing a service to members. Ability to mix at all levels is therefore essential.

2. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

This appointment is as assistant to the Director, Industrial Relations Affairs, who is also responsible for the preparation of the memorandum on wages and conditions; arranging meetings of the industry's consultation machinery and drafting reports on wages and other papers. Some involvement in industrial relations training may arise.

3. PUBLIC RELATIONS/EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

An Assistant to the Director of External Affairs is primarily concerned with promoting the image of the industry, the contribution which free enterprise construction makes to the economy and the development of the nation. It requires a degree of ability to express ideas in a lively and original manner, direct and through the media. Probable age about 30.

Appointments require well-developed, written and spoken communication skills. The ability to analyse information and present it clearly under pressure is essential.

Candidates should be educated to degree level or equivalent. Directly related experience and/or knowledge of the construction industry is desirable.

Write giving details of age, education, qualifications and experience to:

The General Secretary, The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, Romney House, Talton Street, London SW1P 3DU.

THE BRITISH LIBRARY Automated Information Service

These London posts are in small teams involved in the following areas:

Marketing

concerns promotional activity, customer liaison and enquiries. Senior Research Assistant and Research Assistant appointments.

User Education and Training

concerns user training and documentation. Research Assistant appointments.

Market Research and Planning

concerns the collection and analysis of data, the planning of new services including studies of library requirements and market research to support marketing staff. Senior Research Assistant and Research Assistant appointments.

Candidates should normally have a degree, or a qualification in Librarianship or Information Science, or specially relevant experience. Experience of automated library or information services including MARC or MEDLARS and on-line services advantageous.

Salary: SRA (maximum age 28) starting salary between £2,170 and £2,765. RA I £2,230-£2,440 or RA II £3,070-£4,510; level of appointment and starting salary according to age, qualifications and experience. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 9 December, 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Aleuron Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote G/9556.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY BOOKSHOP

Training in the middle

As a species the "middle manager" in British industry and commerce is among the most difficult to define. It largely depends on the degree of enlightenment shown by his employers whether he plays a genuinely effective management role or becomes the buffer between the shopfloor and the boardroom.

Happily, the majority of British employers are now enlightened enough to recognise the need to link their workers to develop into one in which a distrust and ineffectiveness appears as an older and a gross misuse of personnel.

The middle manager has, therefore, developed into one of the most vital areas in industry and one to which an increasingly sophisticated selection and training process is being applied.

Formal qualifications are now more important, but this is still the area of management where a high degree of practical skill and experience of production and working techniques are necessary. Consequently the skilled shopfloor worker with in-job management training is still regarded by many in the recruitment field as the ideal middle manager.

The most popular post-graduate qualification in Britain, and the one with which the aspirant to middle and eventually senior management status should be armed, is the Diploma in Management Studies (DMS). Courses leading to the DMS are the main activity in the management education departments of over 50 centres of further and higher education throughout Britain and since the diploma was introduced in 1961 over 10,000 students gained it.

The DMS is now the mainstay of management education, being based on the sequence or, depending on previous relevant qualifications, a post-graduate course, or a qualification in Librarianship or Information Science, or specially relevant experience. Experience of automated library or information services including MARC or MEDLARS and on-line services advantageous.

Salary: SRA (maximum age 28) starting salary between £2,170 and £2,765. RA I £2,230-£2,440 or RA II £3,070-£4,510; level of appointment and starting salary according to age, qualifications and experience. Non-contributory pension scheme.

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MANAGER DESIGNATE

Applications are invited from men or women for this appointment, which subject to a satisfactory probation, will lead to appointment as Manager when the present holder of this post retires in March 1978.

Applicants should be in the 35 to 45 age group, physically fit, with knowledge of the book trade, considerable experience in the field of shop management and staff control and in dealing with customers of many different nationalities.

The salary of the Manager is linked to the Higher Executive Officer scale of the Civil Service, beginning at a point commensurate with age and experience. The salary of the Manager Designate will be negotiable but not less than £24,000.

For full details and application form please write enclosing stamped addressed envelope to the Receiver General, Room 4, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PA.

COMPANY FORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION

We need a person with a suitable qualification or relevant experience to undertake Company Secretarial work for clients. The job will initially be concerned with statutory books and returns, but will later include formations, liquidations and other work. Age is immaterial but the prospects for a younger person may be excellent. Expected salary range £24,000-£25,000 p.a. but could be higher for exceptional candidate.

Apply to: Harold Watts, Denton Hall and Burgin, 3 Gray's Inn Place, London WC1R 5EA. Tel: 01-242 1212.

Payroll Officer

£24,200 per annum

The Spastics Society, one of the largest voluntary organisations in the U.K., requires a Payroll Officer to supervise 750/800 central payroll (mainly monthly), with two staff.

It is planned to computerise the payroll in 1978 and some experience in payroll computerisation is essential. Experience of a mechanised payroll (NCR 33 used) will be a definite advantage as will some pensions administration experience.

Please apply to: Anthony O'Flaherty, Chief Personnel Officer, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EG. Tel: 01-636 5620.

OXFORD DIOCESAN PARSONAGES BOARD MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR

Chartered Surveyor (preferably Building Sub-division) with at least 10 years experience since qualification, required to take responsibility for repairs and minor improvements to the Board's 400 parsonage houses throughout the counties of Oxford, Berks, and Bucks. Salary within scale £5,422-£6,422 (annual review).

Non-contributory pension scheme.

Apply to: Secretary, Oxford Diocesan Parsonages Board, Church House, North Hinksey, Oxford, giving names of 2 referees by Wednesday 30 November, 1977. Closing date for applications December 4.

THE POLICE GRADUATE ENTRY SCHEME

The police have an increasing need for highly qualified men and women. There are two ways of entering — by normal application at any time of the year or through a special entry scheme. What follows gives you a basic outline of how the special entry scheme works and an opportunity to acquire more detailed information.

What are the advantages of the special entry scheme?

Under the special entry scheme, you can offer yourself, even before joining the police, for selection for the Special Course at the Police College, Brixton Hill. This course is for officers considered to have the potential for accelerated promotion to the rank of inspector and beyond.

Who can apply?

Any graduate or undergraduate in the final year of a full time degree course up to the age of 30 may apply. Any University or CNAFA degree is acceptable.

Closing dates for 1978 interviews for the special entry scheme are 30th January for all forces except Metropolitan Police (9th January for the Metropolitan Police).

Enquiries about ordinary entry for graduates can be made at any time.

Can a police career make full use of a university education?

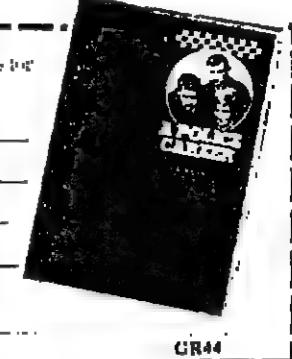
The intellectual challenges of police work are considerable. Your ability and

potential will be tested to the full in combating the increasingly complex problems which today's society poses for the police. You will find the work demanding, satisfying and rewarding. A real challenge.

Like to find out more?

Police starting pay is £1,400 p.a. (£2,749 in London). Inspectors start at £3,950 (£4,540 in London) a year basic salary. Plus a pay supplement of 5% of total earnings subject to a maximum of £1,177 per week. Agreement has been reached on a further increase of 10% from 1st September 1977. On top of this all police officers receive free accommodation or rent allowance, the current maximum of which ranges from £708 to £1,177 half for single officers a year, depending on area. For more information, please send off the coupon to Supt. Head Soule, Room 355, Home Office.

Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT or ask for the Graduate Liaison Officer at the Headquarters of the Police Force of your choice.



GR44

David Young

Please send me your new booklet and literature on the opportunities for graduates in the police service.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____

Address _____

Degree/Course _____

We need teachers who can remain calm under fire as well as in the classroom.

It's a tall order, we know.

But then, we're not merely offering you a change of schools.

In the Army, you'll teach young recruits and experienced soldiers who wish to qualify as tradesmen.

You'll coach Officers who have to pass examinations for promotion and for entry to the Staff College.

You may well teach abroad, perhaps with British troops, or Gurkhas or locally enlisted soldiers in Hong Kong.

This makes you as important as any of our other Officers.

You'll have the same status, the same opportunities for promotion, the same levels of pay.

We think it only fair, therefore, that you should prove yourself their equal as an Officer.

Six months at Sandhurst will give you the chance.

Although it won't be your main concern, you'll have to prove that you can lead men and, if it comes to the crunch, carry out operational duties.

After Sandhurst and a spell at the RAEC's own training centre, you'll take up your first teaching post.

Your starting salary, depending on your qualifications, will be between £1,195 and £1,541, back dated to the day you joined.

If you decide to leave after three years commissioned service, you'll get a tax-free gratuity of £1,545.

As to your qualifications, the main thing is that you should be a graduate or at least a qualified teacher.

Incidentally, throughout your period of service, you'll be given every opportunity to improve your own professional qualifications, possibly up to post-graduate level.

Assuming you're fit and under 29, you can take a tentative step in our direction by spending three days at our headquarters or a day at any Army Education Centre. Either way, you'll be under no obligation.

Entry normally takes place in January and July and you are advised to apply at least six months in advance. For further details write to: Captain G. C. Taylor, M.A., RAEC, Ministry of Defence (A. Ed 1), DepD17, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, SW6 1TR.

Army Officer

General Telephone

Area Representatives—London and South East, Midlands and North—£4,750-£5,500

We are looking for energetic Salesmen aged 22-35 who can display character, tact and determination in initial training.

They will be trained to sell our range of communications services, including mini-telephones, post and paging, public address, time controlled and fire alarm systems.

For those who are particularly successful in the field, there is the possibility of becoming a supervisor.

The scope and variety of the work is truly unique and there can be good opportunities for advancement. From a modest basic salary and commission, overall earnings should be around £14,750-£16,000 in the first year although much higher levels can be achieved with experience. Company car, pension and superannuation, life assurance and medical cover are provided.

Please telephone or write quickly to: D. H. Ward, Sales Manager, General Telephone Systems Ltd., 44/50, Osnaburgh St., NW1 3NL. Tel: 01-388 7241.

The Housing Corporation

THE CONTRACTORS' PLANT ASSOCIATION

Executive Appointment

The Association represents the construction plant hire industry and wishes to make a further addition to its executive staff, to help strengthen and extend its existing work in the following three areas:

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS : TRAINING : HEALTH & SAFETY

Knowledge of industrial relations in some sector of the construction industry is preferable, with the ability to extend scope of interest across these three areas generally. Opportunity for an intelligent and experienced person of mature personality, able to write and speak lucidly and handle organising, committee and occasional negotiation aspects.

Salary according to experience, abilities and qualifications, with regular reviews. Good working conditions and 4 weeks annual leave. Preferred age range about 30 to 45. Future prospects in a developing organisation.

Write, in confidence, for further details and brief form of application to: R. C. Salmon, B.Sc.(Eng.), F.I.C.E., Director, The Contractors' Plant Association, 28 Ecclesall Street, London SW1W 9PY.

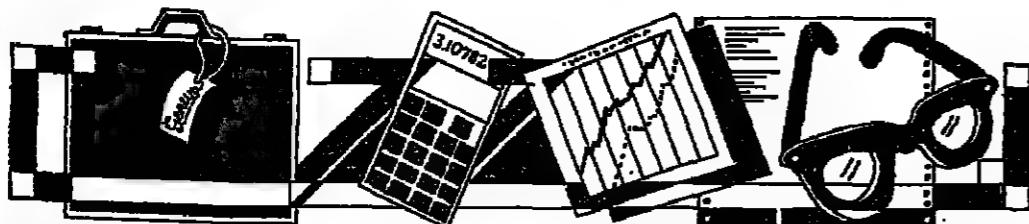
EXPERIENCED MEDICAL JOURNALISTS

A leading clinical magazine for General Practitioners requires a graduate in the Biosciences to join a young, enthusiastic and dynamic team.

Two or three years' experience of medical writing is essential, and candidates must be able to undertake all types of sub-editing and production work. Drive and commitment are necessary attributes.

Will be with full personal and career details, enclosing some examples of your work to:

DARRELL H. THORPE,
MEDICAL DIVISION, HAYMARKET PUBLISHING LTD.,
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£6,000 plus appointments



Kenya Airways

VACANCIES

Kenya Airways invites applications from qualified Boeing 707 Captains, Co-pilots, Engineers and Supervisors:

Captains and Co-Pilots

Captains must have at least 1,000 hr in command on aircraft whose all up weight exceeds 30,000lb, min. a minimum of 500 hr in command on B707 aircraft. Co-pilots must have at least 2,000 hr airline experience and have a current B707 rating.

Materials Provisioning Engineer

Must have at least ten years' experience in aircraft spares provisioning which must include initial provisioning for new and used aircraft. Extensive experience of provisioning for B707-320 series aircraft is essential. Technical liaison experience in respect of Service Bulletins, Modifications and Heavy Maintenance of B707-320 aircraft is desirable.

Development Engineer-Airframe and Systems

Development Engineer-Powerplant and Systems

Must hold a University degree or a diploma in Engineering or hold 'A' and/or 'C' Licences on B707 and P & W engines. A minimum of 5 years' maintenance and overhaul experience including defect rectification and certification is required. Previous experience in development work is desirable.

Instrument/Electrical Supervisors

Must be an Avionic Engineer holding Electrical and/or Multi-Instruments Licence/Approval valid for Boeing 707-320B aircraft (Category 9.4 and 10.1.3). Preference will be given to candidates holding endorsement for Inertial Navigation Equipment. Successful applicants will have at least six years' experience in Line/Hangar Maintenance.

Remuneration for Captains ranges from UK£14,600 to UK£17,000 per annum and for Co-pilots from UK£7,900 to UK£10,000 per annum. Entry point will depend on qualifications and experience.

Remuneration for Engineers and Supervisors will be the equivalent of between UK£5,700 and UK£7,300 per annum. The starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience.

In addition there will be generous housing, transport and medical benefits. Employment will be on contract terms with a minimum of two years.

Applications giving full personal details and experience should be sent to: Personnel Manager, KENYA AIRWAYS LTD., P.O. Box 19002, Nairobi, Kenya, so as to reach him not later than 8 December, 1977.

The successful applicant will reside in Nairobi, which is a modern city enjoying beautiful climate and with many sporting and social amenities.

THE BRITISH AMATEUR ATHLETIC BOARD

seeks applications for the new post of

General Secretary

at a starting salary in the region of

£8,500 PER ANNUM (Subject to review)

To commence on 1st April, 1978 or as soon as possible thereafter. It is expected that the successful applicant will be in the age range 35-50 years.

Closing date for applications December 5th, 1977.

Further information and application forms are obtainable from:-

The Clerk to the Board

British Amateur Athletic Board,
70 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW3 1EE

TRUST INVESTMENT OFFICER

An International Investment Company offers an exciting opportunity to a mature, experienced trust officer to establish a Trust Department within the Company.

The incumbent must be a generalist with experience in placement of funds and portfolio management. He or she may take an active part in managing the Company's liquid assets and will advise the Company's clients on investment strategy for their portfolios. Clients are all foreign nationals.

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Interested candidates please submit detailed curriculum vitae to:

BOX 0017 K, THE TIMES.

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Please ring for an interview:

Jennifer Roberts,
Thomson Publications Limited,
Elm House, Elm Street,
London WC1X 0BP. Tel. 01-278 2345, extn. 33

Office of Ombudsman for Central Government Director-Investigations

£9,320-£11,670

The Ombudsman (Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration) is responsible for investigating complaints against the administrative actions of central government departments. The current vacancy is for a Director who will have charge of the Division concerned with taxation complaints, and will direct the work of 2 investigation units.

Much of the work will be related to the examination and review of evidence produced by investigating staff and the subsequent preparation of reports and recommendations for the Commissioner. In difficult cases, the Director will lead the investigation personally — investigating complainants and senior officials.

The main qualities required are the ability to master quickly a great deal of detail and distil from it the facts essential to an understanding of the arguments for and against the complaint under investigation; the penetration necessary to see all aspects of a case and to make a fair and impartial judgement; the ability to condense arguments

with clarity, both orally and in writing. Candidates (aged at least 40) must be familiar with the machinery of British government and should have an understanding of, and a sympathetic interest in, the 'Ombudsman institution'. They must also have had considerable senior level experience which may have been gained in one of the professions or in central or local government or in industry or commerce. A qualification in public administration, law, accountancy or taxation would be an advantage.

Salary, starting at £9,320, rises to £11,670. This London-based appointment will be for a period of 3 years initially, and could be on secondment term.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 8 December 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Almonro Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 69551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: A9652.

AUSTRALIA

SIR CHARLES GAIRDNER HOSPITAL
THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II MEDICAL CENTRE
NEDLANDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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A Clinical Psychologist is required by the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Nedlands, Western Australia, can accommodate in excess of 800 patients and covers all medical and surgical specialties. The Department of Psychology has a well equipped laboratory, day patient, consultative and emergency services. Postgraduate qualifications in Clinical Psychology, and be eligible for registration with the Australian Psychological Society.

Level 1: £18,115-£20,596 (approximately equivalent to Level H, ASIO, DSA, S17,912 approximately equivalent to Point of commencement dependent upon qualifications and experience of service, including travel allowance to the successful applicant, as detailed in the Memorandum of Information available on application). Duties include psychological assessment and treatment of patients, training within the hospital and other health care facilities, experience in the use of behaviour therapy as an adjuvant. Research is encouraged and an honorary university appointment may be available. Further information may be obtained from the Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Department of Psychology, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Nedlands, Western Australia. Applications to Personnel Manager, stating age, experience and qualifications, list of publications and accompanied by two professional referees, who should be asked to write directly to the Personnel Manager by 30th November.

MANAGER —

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Enthusiastic person (m/f) wanted to sell our clients' residential property in Spain. Ideal applicant will have sales experience of selling houses and apartments, preferably in Spain and have a knowledge of the Spanish language. Must be prepared to make frequent weekend inspection flights. Terms envisaged are a basic salary of £6,000 p.a. plus generous commission related to sales. Opportunity of high income with interesting but exacting life style.

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Write with brief details to: Tony Charlton, Head of Business Planning, UCSL, Station House, Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6EB. Tel: 01-903 1414.

Unilever Computer Services Limited

LEGAL NOTICES

In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BIRMINGHAM, in the County Court.
In the Matter of ETHEL MAUD
PARSONS, deceased.

GRANVILLE & PARTNERS Limited,
NOTARIES & SOLICITORS
10, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W1
and in the Master of the
Court of Probate.

Notice is hereby given that PETITION
FOR THE WINDING UP OF THE
COMPANY OF THE COURTS OF BIRMINGHAM
ON THE 7th day of November 1977, presented
to the Master of the Court of Probate by
the Administrators of the said Company
for the winding up of the same, and that
the Administrators will proceed to
distribute the assets having regard
to the nature of the business of the
Company, and that the petition will be
heard on the 13th day of November
1977.

ERIC MOSES, Solicitor in
CHAMBERS, 10, NEW BOND
STREET, LONDON, W1.

NOTE.—Any person who intends to
appear on the hearing of the said
Petition must serve on, or send to,
the solicitors a notice of his intention so to do.
The notice must state the name
and address of the firm
or firm, or his or her Solicitor (if
any), and must be sent not less than
one month before the date of the
hearing.

Given this 13th day of November
1977.

PHILIPPE GRAY & CO., 79
PARK LANE, LONDON, W1.

1977.

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1977.

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The person appointed should be
well mannered, pleasant appearance
and good use of English. It is essential
that she/he should be able to
work on own initiative compose
letters, etc., personnel files,
be able to liaise with staff and
handle confidential work which
calls for immense discretion.
The successful applicant will
have at least 5 years secretarial
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and typewriting qualifications
and be able to read the Editor's
handwriting. Salary negotiable.

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MRS LINDA HOWARD SPINK
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The successful applicant will
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and typewriting qualifications
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Write giving details of experience
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23.30 P.M.—Enjoy temporary work
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23.30 P.M. PERIOD. The choice is
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Language ability, word processing
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ONE QUALIFIED SECRETARY AND
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to Mrs. T. S. Smith, 100 Finsbury
Place, EC2M 7AS.

Phone: 01-228 9864

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The Courier Service has
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Excellent opportunities for
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Managing Director of luxury
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Weds No. replies should be sent by 10 a.m.

For the Times

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Deadlines for cancellations and alterations to copy (except for advertisements) must be at least 13.00 hrs prior to the day of publication. Please note that to make the decision it is 12 noon Saturday. After 12 noon Saturday, all copy will be referred to the advertiser. On any subsequent day, copy received after the cancellation, this 12.00 Noon Number must be used.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes can occur and we thank therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to The Classified Queries department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not

... pay as the lightning comedy and the world's best show must be. —Sister Sledge 01-278

BIRTHS

BAUGHAN—On November 12th, at St. John's Church, Liverpool, son Jonathan and daughter Brynn—son Michael, a brother for Karen, Gina and Christopher—daughter for Simon (Andrew Robert).

BOGGOTT—On November 12th, in Andover, Hampshire, son Edward (John Marshall) and David (Sarah) daughter (Reed Elizabeth).

GORDON—On November 12th, at home, son James, son George, Elizabeth—a son (Graeme) and daughter (Sarah).

HODKINSON—On November 12th, at Colchester, Essex, son Andrew and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Katherine).

INDRAH—On November 12th, to Edward and Elizabeth (now Doug and Linda) son (David) and daughter (Reed Elizabeth).

MARTIN—On Tuesday, 15th November, at St. Mary's Hospital, London NW1, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

PALY—On Tuesday, 15th November, at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

PAWLIN—On November 12th, at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

PHILLIPS—On November 12th, at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

PRINCE—On November 12th, at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

REED—On November 12th, at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

ROBERTSON—On November 12th, at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

SARASOONI—On November 12th, at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

SHAW—On November 12th, at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

THOMAS—On November 12th, at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

WHITE—On November 12th, at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

ZAKHAROV—On November 12th, at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

DEATHS

BRIGGS—On November 12th, peacefully at Thame Bank Nursing Home, Thame, Oxfordshire, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

CARLSON—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

COOPER—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

DAVIS—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

DEAN—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

DIXON—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

EDWARDS—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

FARRELL—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

FRASER—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

GARRETT—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

GOODFELLOW—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

HARRIS—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

HOBSON—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

JONES—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

KELLY—On November 12th, peacefully at home, son (John) and daughter (Sarah) and wife (Sarah).

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THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18 1977

I

FOCUS ON

OMAN

*Oil revenues... farming... minerals
irrigation... education... sport*

Chequered progress of a Rip Van Winkle

by Christopher Walker

Seven years ago Oman was a country shrouded in a deceptive mystique whose estimated one million inhabitants were forbidden to study, play music, smoke, wear sunglasses or even move in and out of their walled capital of Muscat after dark.

Deliberately kept in ignorance about life in the outside world, East or West, they were ruled by an eccentric, penny-pinching and reclusive Sultan whose only contact with all but a handful of sycophantic courtiers was made by radio transmission.

On July 23, 1970 the country was suddenly transformed when the present ruler, Sultan Qaboos bin Said (the fourteenth in the dynasty), deposed his reactionary father and persuaded him to leave for London to "live out the remaining two years of his life" exiled in The Dorchester hotel.

The ensuing period in the history of Oman has been one of remarkable, if sometimes chequered, progress, bedevilled until two years ago by a vicious and debili-

tating war against Marxist guerillas fighting in the immediate semi-desert southern region. Much of the money has been allocated to an advanced ground-to-air missile system and Anglo-French Jaguar strike aircraft, the fifth of which was delivered in September. Dominating the southern gateway to The Gulf, Oman is conscious of the strategic importance of the narrow Strait of Hormus and also of the war between Ethiopia and Somalia, which it is feared could increase Russian influence in the Red Sea.

Closely military links were forged with Iran during the 1971 coup. The final defeat of the PFLO won the Sultan considerable prestige in the Arab world.

Although the so-called secret war against the Cuban-trained guerrillas of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO) was officially declared won in December, 1975, the fear of communist aggression combined with a firm belief in the domino theory continue to colour the Sultan's thinking.

Estimates for the 1977 budget show that although defence spending had dropped slightly from the previous year, it still accounts for almost 40 per cent of the total planned expenditure for the year of 770m rials. Senior government advisers expect the level to be maintained two ideologically opposed



Edith Dorsey Raff

communications... conservation... banking and finance... customs

governments at the United Nations.

Now an established member of both the United Nations and the Arab League, although not an OPEC member, Oman has devoted considerable attention to balancing its desire to play an international role with the acknowledged gaps in its embryonic economy.

Most of them were the legacy of the last Sultan, and have resulted in capital expenditure on a scale which has been maintained only by soft loans and grants from friendly Arab neighbours, notably Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi.

In 1970, Oman had only three schools, teaching a total of 909 pupils, no international airport, no seaport, one hotel and five kilometres of paved road for its 500 car owners.

Today, cars and taxis numbers 22,000, international airports have been built in the north and south of the country, two modern ports are in operation, sufficient hotel rooms exist for visiting businessmen and the number of children attending school this year will top 70,000.

As yet only three Omani schools have reached secondary level, and there are no plans for a university, but the access to education (largely supplied by expatriate teachers from Egypt and Jordan) exceeds the expectations of most of the population.

In many ways it is the remote and picturesque southern region of Dhofar which holds the key to Oman's future. Rich in unexploited tourist potential, it is newly liberated from the stranglehold of extreme left-wing guerrilla forces and now the focus for oil exploration teams, its success

integration with the rest of the country will be symbolised by the first time the National Day celebrations take place there for the first time. The strong diplomatic presence will be an accurate reflection of the fund of good will held for Oman throughout the Western world.

The present rate of production of 335,000 barrels a day is already down on the peak achieved in 1976, and expatriate oilmen emphasize the rising costs caused by the need to fly in teams of outside experts to stretch back to 1798, and even today its 20,000-strong army, navy and air force rely significantly on the 625 present and former members of the British services.

For its part, the Omani Government explains that allowance for a gradual decline has been made in the five-year plan published last year, and points to strenuous efforts being made to diversify the economy and build up other income generating industries, including copper, gas, fisheries and agriculture. Heavily by a new drilling project in Dhofar which will produce an extra 30,000 barrels a day by 1980, senior government officials argue that the oil company executives are unduly pessimistic.

In addition, an estimated 5,000 British expatriates live and work in Oman, many enjoying vastly higher salaries than those they could expect at home. Although the country has a rigidly conservative Islamic tradition, life for foreign workers is considerably more relaxed than its richer northern neighbours. Drink is freely available in hotel bars and expatriate women are able to wear western-style clothes without exploration teams, its suc-

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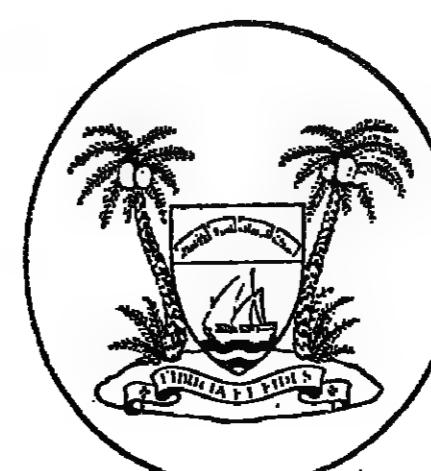
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FOCUS ON

THE ECONOMY, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND FINANCE

Discipline brings better reputation

by John Whelan

Control is a word often used in Oman in connexion with the economy. Today, in other Gulf states this would be called stagnation or recession. By contrast the Omanis appear to have learnt the lessons of a sharp financial crisis in 1974 when the economy became overheated.

The control which is helping to make Oman a good word again in banking circles is expressed in a five-year development plan covering government expenditure till 1980. The difference between this plan and the development plans of certain other Gulf states is that government ministries are cutting spending to fit the targets defined in the plan.

Some of the credit for this belongs to the Deputy Chairman of the seven-man Deve-

lopment Council, Qais Abdul Mumin Al-Zawawi, who has been largely responsible for translating the Sultan's call for restraint into practical reality.

The effect of the new discipline on the expansion of credit has been apparent. Credit rose from 6.5m rials (£2.25m) in 1972 to 6.5m rials (£22.5m) in 1974. Credit has continued to accelerate but the upward trend has been less pronounced. There was a rise from 12.5m rials (£42.5m) at the end of 1976 to 15.5m rials (£28.8m) in 1977. Government borrowings actually declined from 89m rials (£19.75m) at the end of last year to 54.7m rials (£18.9m) in August.

Imports grew marginally in 1976 over the previous year, from 361.4m rials (£124.9m) to 380.5m rials (£131.5m). There is every sign that this trend will con-

tinue, together with the Erdöl-Versorgungsgesellschaft of West Germany which will spend £21.7m seeking oil in the oil-rich Gulf. Economic activity is reflected in oil. The five-year plan was dominated until recently by the fall in cement imports, which were about 7 per cent down in 1976 compared with 1975.

This year's working budget deficit is estimated conservatively at 56m rials (£19.35m) which is an improvement on the 1976 budgetary deficit of 68.5m rials (£157.15m) in 1976 but this is expected to fall to 42.5m rials (£146m) by 1980.

From the inception of the plan Zawawi and the Sultan have seen as one another's best friends from Arab states, together with direct grants and a strictly limited amount of direct borrowing. Loans and grants are envisaged as being a declining form of deficit bridging during the five-year plan, though two key projects are receiving foreign aid.

The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development is helping to finance a 17.22m \$31km gas pipeline linking the natural gas fields with Ghubra on the coast. The pipeline will generate power for important secondary industries. More important still was the Saudi grant of £55.55m towards a copper mining project at Sohar. The Saudis have also provided £52.75m for road construction and building schemes in the Dhofar province.

Zawawi is also committed to the encouragement of joint ventures, though this is restrained by the Government's concern to keep the Omani economy in the hands of Omanis. In a state which has successfully emerged from a costly counter-insurgency operation the lesson about allowing too much foreign control is all too clear. The investment law has been amended by a government decree requiring 150,000 rials (£51,440) minimum capital for local companies established with foreign participation. The aim of this is to encourage inflow of capital and keep smaller enterprises in Omani hands.

Foreign companies have also been restricted from building homes for their own employees to stimulate rentals. By the end of 1976 94.5 per cent of all companies in Oman were entirely Omani owned, though the four biggest in terms of paid-up capital were still entirely foreign owned.

Much turns on the ability of the Government to curb spending. National security, though envisaged as a declining element in the budget, is still expected to total 97.1m rials (£335.55m) during the five-year plan. It is the largest single item of spending though it does reflect an element of civil expenditure, largely on housing for members of the defence forces and their families.

Ironically, the very success of that intervention leading directly to the end of the war 18 months ago, threatened temporarily to deepen Oman's isolation from the Arab world by rousing new suspicions of Iranian "imperialism" especially in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

But Saudi-Iranian cooperation in OPEC helped to over-

Widening the horizons

by David Holden

Like many other aspects of Oman's life, the foreign policies of the sultane were dominated until recently by reaction to the Marxist rebellion in Dhofar. As long as the insurrection there remained a considerable threat to the Sultan's rule that really mattered to him were those with other powers that were prepared to help in its suppression. But now that the war is over a subtler approach to the world has been adopted.

The main evidence of this is a slow but significant widening of Oman's regional horizons, especially in the Arab world. In modern times until 1970, when Sultan Qaboos came to power, Oman had no effective relations with any foreign power except Britain. For nearly two centuries it had been under de facto British protection, turning its back upon the Arab world as it pursued its own interests in India and East Africa.

Under the present Sultan's father this British connection was deliberately strengthened to the exclusion of all else as he strove to preserve the country from the impact of modern nationalism. The Dhofer war had remained steadily aloof from Omani until the Dhofer war was over, his previous chief aid in Dhofar and placed \$25m on deposit at the Oman central bank. In 1970, succeeded two years later by the Oman Currency Board. Both were managed by the British Bank of the Middle East.

A banking law of 1974 set up the Central Bank of Oman, with its own management. The same law laid the ground rules for commercial banks. When the Central Bank came into operation on April 1 1975 it issued regulations governing capital and deposits, followed soon after by regulations on lending ratios and reserve requirements.

Throughout the Dhofer war, Arab reluctance to be associated with British military action proved inhibiting, even when it was clearly established that the rebellion had failed under Marxist control through the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO), directed and assisted by the Government of the PFLP (South Yemen) with Russian, East German and Cuban assistance.

Of all the Arab leaders only King Hussein of Jordan came forward with military aid.

Otherwise it was left to the Shah of Iran to seize on the potential threat from the PFLO to his own "jugular vein"—the tanker route through the Straits of Hormuz from the Gulf—as a reason to send his troops to aid the British and the Sultan's forces in 1974.

When the British pulled out of Masirah in the spring there were instant rumours—circulated especially from Aden, Moscow and other left-wing capitals—that the Americans were about to move in, to use the airfield as a back-up base for Diego Garcia in their surveillance of the Indian Ocean. This would presumably have balanced the Soviet position in Aden. But the Sultan strenuously denies any such prospect, while admitting that he will certainly allow friendly powers to use Masirah occasionally if they so request.

Oil and politics behind banks' growth

by Michael Prest

Banking in Oman has courted the country's economic and political development. When the present ruler, Sultan Qaboos, overthrew his father in 1970, Oman had only three banks:

the ubiquitous British Bank of the Middle East, which had opened in 1948, the Eastern Bank (now Chartered), and the Ottoman Bank (now Grindlays). The Eastern and Ottoman banks had opened in 1958 and 1969 respectively.

Today Oman has 19 banks with another licensed and likely to open this year. Five of the operating banks are locally incorporated (as is the licence holder), and between them control 96 outlets. The list includes several well-known international banks, but also has a strong military component outside Europe.

Most of the impetus for this change actually comes from the British Government, anxious to reduce one of its last significant military commitments outside Europe.

This rapid growth is due partly to government policy and partly to the Gulf boom of the past few years, in which Oman as a small oil producer has participated. Government policy originated in 1973 when the Oman Currency Authority in 1970, succeeded two years later by the Oman Currency Board. Both were managed by the British Bank of the Middle East.

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For the past two years have seen several alterations to these regulations, but now they stand as a comprehensive body which offers some interesting comparisons with practice elsewhere in the region. No bank may lend more than 20 per cent of its net worth to a single borrower. Capital adequacy is partly protected by obliging each bank to deposit a minimum of 50,000 rials (\$14,500) with the Central Bank.

In practice, new banks are set up to provide guarantees, changing the nominal capital to at least 2m rials (\$5.75m). In addition all banks must lodge a capital deposit of a minimum of 50,000 rials (\$145,000) and a maximum of 500,000 rials expressed as one tenth of 1 per cent of the bank's total assets. The Central Bank also now requires that the majority interest in banks is controlled by Omanis.

Equally important to the healthy development of banking in Oman, however, have been economic and political considerations.

A determined campaign, consisting of military and social measures, was launched against the Dhofar insurgency. Foreigners began to show more confidence in the country, and the economy boomed.

that adequate finance is forthcoming, two new development banks have been started, the Oman Development Bank, to which the Government is subscribing 40 per cent of the 10m rials (\$22m) capital, and the Oman Housing Bank, capitalized at the same amount, with a 10 per cent share going to the British Bank of the Middle East.

Whatever happens to the economy over the next few years, it is unlikely that last year's record figures of money supply, up 44 per cent, and credit reaching its legal limit of 85 per cent of deposits, will be repeated. But the banks' business is securely founded.

From the international banker's point of view, however, Oman cannot be as attractive as Bahrain or the United Arab Emirates. The absence from Oman of most of the top names which proliferate in other Gulf countries indicates Oman's lack of appeal. It will probably be a long time before the image is more enticing. In the meantime, it could prove a testing ground for the development of Arab banks.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.

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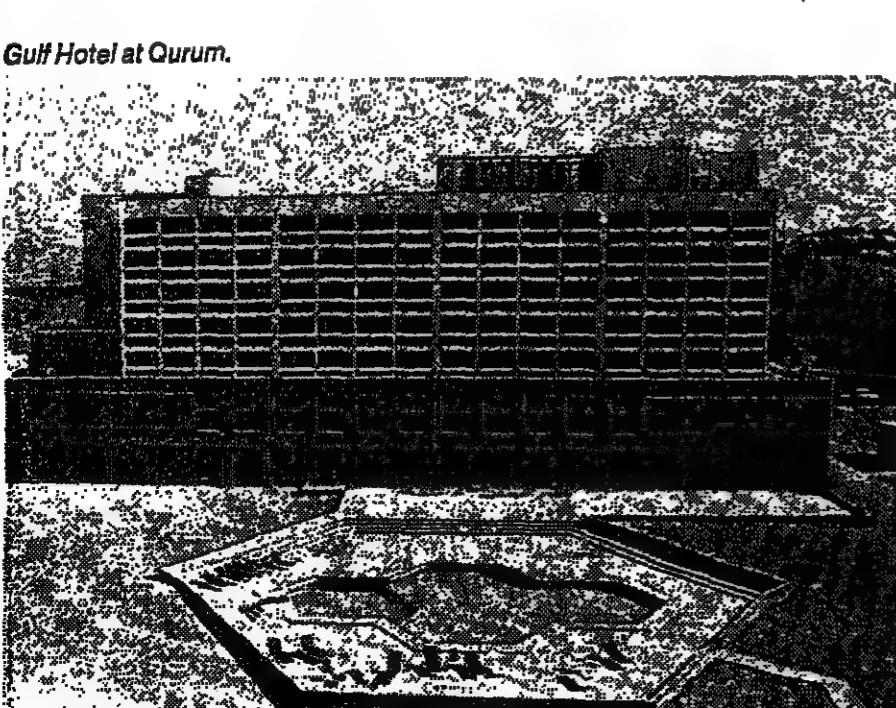
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OMAN. THE CHALLENGE AND THE OPPORTUNITY.

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FOCUS ON

AGRICULTURE, FISHING AND MINERALS

Harvest great but labourers few

by Tim Owen

More than half the population of Oman is engaged in farming, a fact that is by no means appreciated outside the sultanate. The drift in recent years from the land to the coast and the towns where the great spheres of development and therefore attract less attention, but this does not detract from their importance and fascination.

The drift from the land is a short to medium-term difficulty. As major constructional projects are completed so will the demand for labour in the towns decrease. Unfortunately there is a tendency for those who have left the land for work in the towns to get accustomed to urban life, and a return to the land has little appeal for them. Inducements, financial and otherwise, have to be considerable to persuade them to do so.

Agriculture is one of the major areas of long-term development planning in Oman and the dilemma that goes with it are some of the most intractable, and most

of these are human. A flood of figures, statistics and percentages not only tends to baffle the reader, but to cloud the issues. Developments in agriculture are longer term and less dramatic than in other spheres of development and therefore attract less attention, but this does not detract from their importance and fascination.

The drift from the land is a short to medium-term difficulty. As major constructional projects are completed so will the demand for labour in the towns decrease. Unfortunately there is a tendency for those who have left the land for work in the towns to get accustomed to urban life, and a return to the land has little appeal for them. Inducements, financial and otherwise, have to be considerable to persuade them to do so.

Another major problem is the innate conservatism of the farmer the world over,

and Oman is no exception and the use of pesticides. To this end, there are four research stations on the coast, really too small and in the interior, where experiments are carried out with various crops, seed trials, use of fertilizers and pesticides.

For example, during the 1960s the lime gardens on the Razinah coast were afflicted by an infestation of blackfly, believed to have originated from the research station and production farms on the one hand and the individual farmers on the other are 30 extension centres, which the Government has established in the different agricultural regions of the country.

It is from these centres that seed, plants, fertilizers and pesticides are distributed to farmers. Agricultural machinery is also available on loan, and advice on improving farming methods is provided at these centres. Farmers are encouraged to form cooperatives, but this requires persuasion and farmers are not persuaded until they can see the practical benefits that can be achieved by so doing.

The main limitation on agriculture in Oman is irrigation. The rainfall throughout the sultanate is too sparse for farming without irrigation. Two methods of irrigation are traditionally used in the country. Particularly in the mountains of the interior the *safir* system is used. This was introduced into Oman 1,000 years ago or more by the Persians, and many of the *safir* still operating particularly in the interior are 800 or more years old.

Water is tapped at source in the mountains and is led by artificial subterranean channels to a point in the plain where it is brought to the surface for irrigation purposes. The other method is to dig a well to the water table, and pumping water out with the use of diesel-operated pumps.

This method is used on the Basin coast where the water table is 5 ft to 8 ft below ground level. So great has been the draw on the water table in recent years that salt water seepage from the sea is beginning to affect it.

The Oman Government has been energetically pursuing means of dealing with these problems. The most important has been the education of the farmer in modern methods of agriculture.

Ever mindful of the knowledge of Oman and Saudi Arabia upon which the economy will contribute \$100m to Oman so heavily depends the estimated \$120m to are finite, the government has long-term plans to finance a large copper exploit other natural resources in the country.

It is estimated that the first of kind in the Arabian peninsula, will produce 2,000 tons of copper per year. A port will have to be built at or near Sohar for its export.

Asbestos of good fibrous quality has been discovered in the mountainous areas of northern Oman near Saham on the north-west coast, nor far from the areas where the copper deposits have been found. The Swiss-Lebanese company, Eternit, has been undertaking the prospecting and making feasibility studies, and has an extraction contract for the production of asbestos in the area.

Oman's first asbestos pipe factory recently started production. Its initial capacity of about 36,000 tons will be increased progressively to meet the entire domestic requirement of the country. Oman now has to import large quantities of asbestos cement pipes for various developments.

At the other end of the Hajar range in the south-eastern corner of Oman the presence of large deposits of coal has been confirmed. It is estimated that about 10 million tons could be extracted. It is a particularly remote and inaccessible part of the country.

In the northern mountains there are good prospects for the quarrying of high quality limestone and marble. Deposits of chrome, lead, zinc, nickel and iron ore have also been found.

In the south-east, near Sur, deposits of manganese have been identified. In the southern mountains of Dhofar prospecting and surveying for mineral deposits has begun but to date nothing of importance has been found.

The Government thinks prospects are good for mineral discovery and exploitation. But a considerable amount of surveying remains to be carried out in a large country, and there will be further feasibility studies.

Much also depends on opening up the country by improving communications.

T.O.

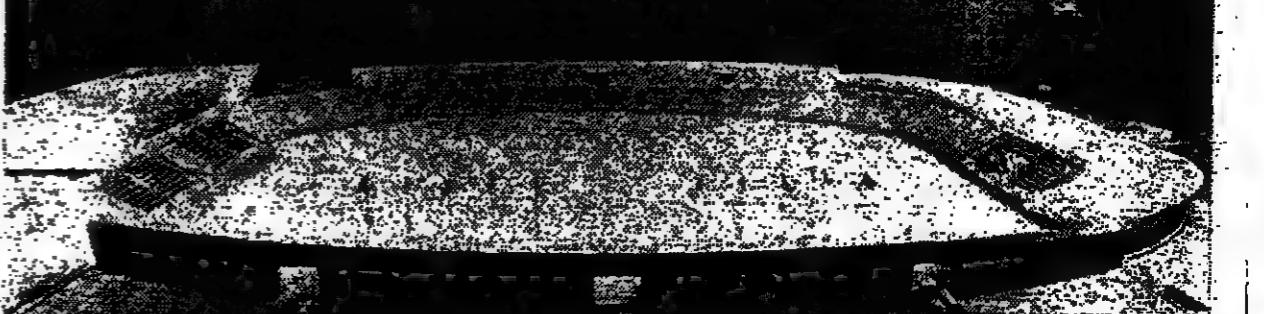
An agreement has been signed between the sultan-

and the British

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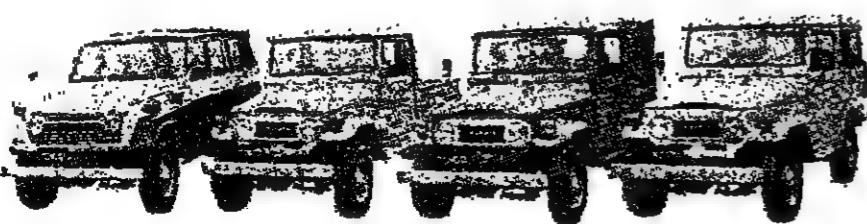
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The next year a modern fisheries research vessel, the Darbar, was bought from Peru. This vessel was useful for collecting information on the deep sea fisheries and coastal waters, as well as providing training for Omani fishermen in modern trawling. The first stage of the research programme was

Fresh fish is on sale at Nizwa and other towns in the interior, conveyed in refrigerated vans—a large step in development, but a short step in time from the camel trains plodding their way over hundreds of miles of desert from Masirah to Nizwa with their loads of dried fish.

T.O.

FOCUS ON

IRRIGATION, EDUCATION AND ARCHITECTURE

Blessed by beneficent rainfall

by Norma Ashworth

All of the newly rich Arab oil states have found difficulties with their water supplies. Sudden development has brought indiscriminate use and it has been found that costly desalination plants cannot completely meet the long-term demands of self-sufficiency.

Oman acted early by appointing engineering specialists, hydrogeologists, hydrographers and geologists to work on mapping groundwater feasibility studies. By early 1973, there were three large engineering companies (British, French and Italian) surveying water resources.

The Durham University Research Project had a team of four graduates at Ibbi, which studied water supplies in relation to conservation and agriculture. Two more engineering consultancy firms later joined the government survey and the FAO, and the United Nations Development Programme prepared a joint report, linked with the previous studies.

By the beginning of 1977, the Water Resources Council secretary, in Muscat, was able to prepare a comprehensive report. Oman was thus able to send a delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Petroleum and Minerals to the United Nations Water Conference held in Argentina last March and to present a paper which attracted considerable interest.

The rain falls during December to March in most areas, except in Dhofar, which gets summer rains and a tropical drenching mist beneficial to agriculture. There are also occasional summer rains in the interior, where flash flooding in the wadis can be an unpredictable hazard as well as a boon to vegetation.

Generally, the rainfall is higher in the mountains, particularly in the Jabal Akhdar, which constitutes the basic source of water for the valleys and the northern coastal area.

Where the groundwater resources discharge naturally as springs and base

flows in the mountain regions, or the water is extracted by means of *aflaj* (plural of *aflaj* or underground irrigation channel). It is still regarded as the most important source for irrigation purposes.

Dug wells are common in oases and all the ground-water extracted from the alluvial aquifer system of the Batisah coastal plain is taken by means of wells.

Increased extraction of groundwater allows the sea-level to encroach.

Cultivation on the coastal strip runs for some 200 miles from Muscat to Khor Fakkan with Oman's mountain spine breaking out into the sea after forming a protective massif for extensive areas of plantation.

Archaeology has found a network of ancient canals in this strip, which supports the claim that Oman's coast was the garden of Arabia.

The decline in water supplies had many causes; the razing of forests in order to clear land for agriculture and to use the wood for industrial fire pits and kilns; the blocking of reservoirs and canals as erosion gained ground; the tribal warfare and destruction of *aflaj* and wells.

Now that considerable historical information has been amassed and the resources assessed, the Water Resources Council is ready to draw up a national water plan. A meeting held on October 26 invited government representatives and interested citizens and expatriates to form an advisory committee.

The following suggestions are under consideration: construction of recharge dams on wadis in the coastal plain to prevent surface runoff into the sea; reuse of treated waste water for irrigation; use of solar energy and sea water to grow high-value crops; use of satellites to assist in transmitting information from remote sites to a central agency for better water management; introduction of an irrigation management service to all farmers providing them with accurate information on the amount of water needed for crop support; and development of better maintenance

techniques for the *aflaj* system.

Dr R. L. de Jong, the council's secretary told the meeting that the simplest part of the plan had already been done—an inventory of the resources. The complex task of balancing supply and demand, taking into account all policy, legal and economic considerations is to come. There are expected to be tortuous dealings and delicate negotiations over traditionally held water rights.

Oman is to be the first field testing ground in the peninsula for a light-weight type of windmill, which will be a year trial at Reading University under the direction of the International Technology Development Group. It will be tried at Al-Khabourah in collaboration with the Durham University project.

It will provide water, not for irrigation, but for washing and general cleaning needs in a typical coastal village. The wind regime is thought to be favourable for testing conditions of the windmill.

An Oman business concern, Darwish-Ast, has offered to construct the windmill free of charge, after which the project director, Dr Roderick Duxton, feels confident will allow for a second stage of experiments. It may be possible to have a solar heating tank and a scheme for purification to provide drinking water.

The oil camp at Fahud carries out rudimentary purification through reverse osmosis, and elsewhere systems of filtration to reduce salinity are being tested. On the coast, west of Muscat, the Government's desalination plant has experienced some difficulties since opening in 1976 but it is expected that the present capacity of four million gallons a day can be increased to six million.

However, many obstacles are still to be surmounted. Oman is regarded by its neighbours as blessed by its comparably beneficial rainfall in the desert territories and possession of the monsoon climate in richly-fertile Dhofar.

The total number of teachers has risen from 30 in 1970 to 2,875 in 1977, and

necessity the great war and those who had majority of these are ex-members of their patriotic Arabs. The ministry families and indoctrinated has now embarked on the with communism. A special programme of development in education, and a hectic and exciting period has been.

Such was the demand, not only for children but

for adults as well, that schools were held in tents and classes took place in shifts in the early stages.

A further problem has been a desperate shortage of trained Omanis, so that most teachers have come from Egypt, Jordan and Sudan. However, only a few years later these difficulties have been challenged and removed. From three boys' primary schools with 900 pupils in 1970, the figure has risen to 213 primary schools and 45 secondary schools (all permanent buildings, and none rented) in 1977 with 46,510 boys and 15,044 girls—a truly remarkable achievement.

The present year is a significant one for the educational programme. It represents a change of emphasis and a time for reflection and consolidation. The children who started their education at the age of six have now reached an age when they are due to move on to secondary education.

The emphasis is now on the building of secondary schools rather than on primary schools, where the programme has reached its nation-wide recognition.

Oman has a rich history of its own, and in future this will form the basis of historical study in the Sultanate. Local committees have been formed to relate curricula to local environment and for the supervision and training of teachers. Oman's new curriculum will be a blend of the best features of the old and the new.

The province of Dhofar has its own educational problems owing to the disruptive consequences of the war which ended in 1975. At the end of the war in November, 1975, there was only one school in the whole of the province at Salalah.

There was, in addition, a special problem of children orphaned by

Wars of the Roses give way to Islam

Six years have passed since Sultan Qaboos in 1970, embarked on an urgent programme of development in education, and a hectic and exciting period has been.

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To Let sign appears in housing desert

The newest sign appearing in the desert has fewer private projects scheduled for the next year in comparison with the last.

At the beginning of the era of oil prosperity, Oman changed in one year more than in the previous 200 years yet, in architectural terms, it is not a new story.

The coastal cities have attracted extensive foreign trade in times of seaspread affluence, the merchants borrowing ideas of opulence from the palaces of India, China and Iran to blend with the purity of traditional Arab architecture. Invaders in past centuries (notably the Persians and the Portuguese) imposed architectural styles of exceptional splendour which altered from the coast to merge into the first buildings of tribal settlements.

The traditional building materials of the Arabian peninsula are mud-brick mixed with straw and dung strengthened with supports of palm stems and fronds woven into patterns of surprising complexity. They are picturesque shelters, or rather were until the discarded packing materials gathered round the suks of modern Oman became the means of building on flimsy annexes.

Today's foreign architects working in Oman have respect for the old styles of building, recognizing that the fundamental design had produced in Oman in accordance with the somewhat ascetic Ibadi doctrine, allowed no reverence for buildings and even the mosques had in past years a simplicity uncommon in other Muslim countries. This has impeded conservation and only the sturdier of ancient buildings have withstood the depredations of tribal warfare and the natural decline of communities through times of trade stagnation. The sixteenth-century fortresses remain the most dramatic examples of early Omani architecture and only at Sohar and Ruwi are there genuinely old houses in a good state of repair.

For the rest, the most beautiful residences of earlier times are rarely older than 100 years. Since 1970, great efforts have been made to protect Oman's architectural heritage and restoration programmes are assured of generous revenues from the Treasury.

The discerning eye comes to recognize the pure architecture of Oman implicit in its handsome wooden doors, iron-studded and lavishly carved; the window screens of wooden filigree; the symmetrically graduated arches; the shortage of trained builders, in particular, will take many years to overcome but the overall picture

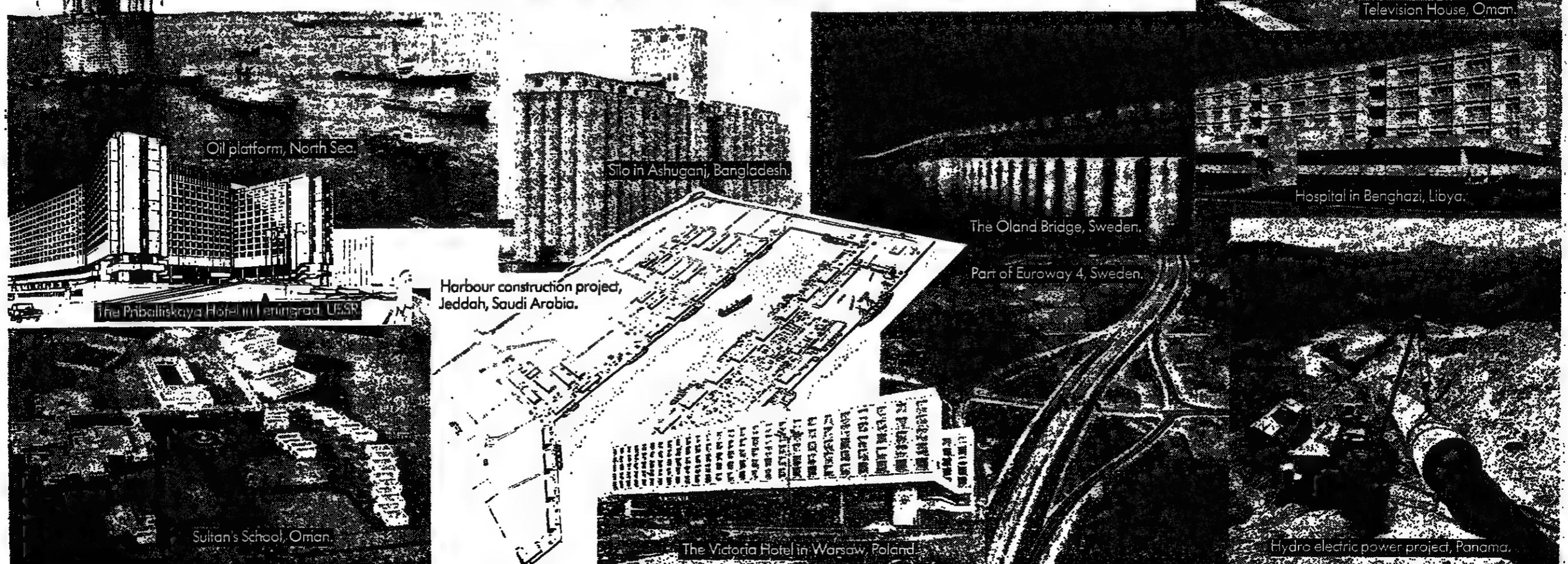
is one of unceasing activity.

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FOCUS ON**HEALTH AND CONSTRUCTION****Accent is on preventing
the old scourges**

by Tim Owen

the tragedy of blindness which has afflicted young and old alike. The mortality rate of babies was very high, and epidemics of measles and influenza would sweep through whole areas, particularly among the Bedu tribes, killing off hundreds, already weakened by malnutrition.

There is a striking parallel between the problems and developments of the health and education services. Both have staffing difficulties and both have reached a stage of development when there is a pause for consolidation and a switch of emphasis.

Initially under the driving force of Dr Aslam al-Jabri, later Dr Muhsen al-Khaduri, the Ministry of Health has put through an impressive programme for the construction of hospitals, health centres, clinics and ancillary facilities. There are now 13 hospitals, 11 health centres and 42 dis-

pensaries and clinics throughout the country.

The construction programme is almost completed, and now the emphasis has been shifted to preventive medicine and health guidance.

An immunization programme has been launched and is gaining momentum. This especially applies to malaria, which has been endemic in the areas of date gardens, where stagnant irrigation water produces ideal conditions for the anophelis

mosquitoes. Outside the towns

Training is long and so Oman will have to rely on expatriate doctors for many years to come.

and health assistants also come from the Indian sub-continent, and will continue to do so until Omanis can be trained to replace them.

In the early years of the health programme construction got well ahead of staffing with the result that in one case a hospital was completed in all respects near Muscat but had to remain empty for some months because of lack of staff. At Rostaq the new hospital under the charge of an indefatigable Indian doctor returned to become the first Minister of Health under the new regime. It therefore follows that from the beginning the health service was entirely dependent on expatriate doctors, nurses and technical staff.

Great importance is attached to the education of women and children in health matters a subject which requires careful and tactful handling. Personal hygiene, nutritional habits, cleanliness in the home and the disposal of rubbish all

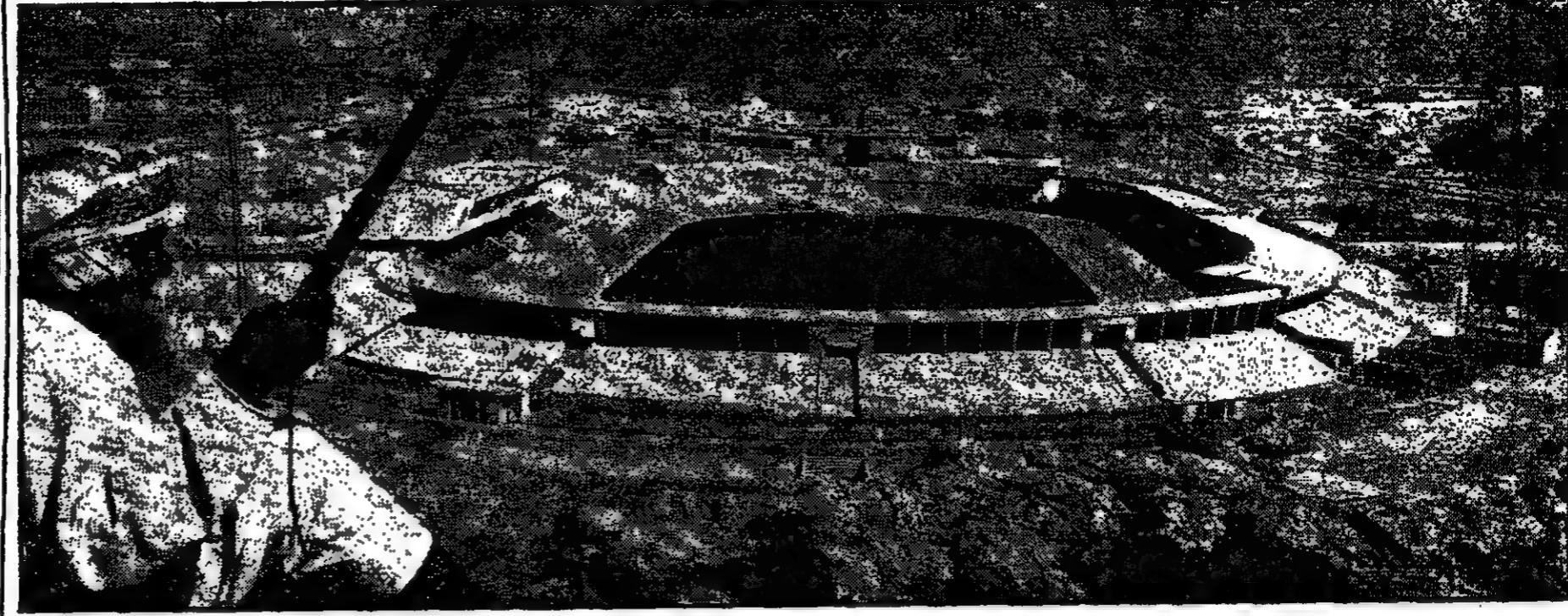
have a bearing on the rate of intestinal diseases such as dysentery and gastro-enteritis, as well as hepatitis and trachoma. Outside the towns training is long and so Oman will have to rely on expatriate doctors for many years to come.

In Dhofar, as in the areas where the fighting was taking place have been brought under control, clinics have been set up in the villages, and a flying doctor service was instituted because of the lack of road communications.

The original 80-bed hospital in Salalah has now been replaced by a new 230-bed hospital recently opened.

Much is being done in the schools to educate the younger generation in hygiene and health care. As housing conditions improve together with sewage disposal, water supplies, improved nutritional standards, immunization and general health education, so will the diseases

plague of Oman be overcome. Most of the doctors are Indian and Pakistani. Only about 20 of the 200 doctors practising in the sultanate are Omanis. Omani doctors their own countries. Most endemic to Oman are being trained abroad of the nurses, technicians come and eliminated.



The police sports stadium, near Watayah, which can accommodate 20,000 people. Construction: Yakhya Costain.

**Room to build at
the top
in wake of boom**

by John Whelan

Even in the expanding area of Marsh, Oman appears to have eschewed the Gulf maxim that in construction work cheapest and quickest is best.

According to an assessment by a British firm of quantity surveyors, D. J. Jones McCosh and Partners, the reduced workload brought about by the tightening of credit has resulted in tenders approximately 15 per cent lower than last year. Mr George McCosh says: "If you assume inflation at 15 per cent in the interim then in reality they are 30 per cent less."

The general direction of bank credit in the construction sector corresponds to this view. In March 1976 credit in this sector at 18.7m rials was 12.3 per cent of total bank credit. By June of this year bank credit in the construction sector had fallen to 18.4m rials and then accounted for only 8.2 per cent of all credit.

The consultants' view is that coupled with the reduced budget is a new and driven market. One of them commented: "The Government is becoming much more conscious of the way it spends its money and much more interested in getting value for money."

This chauvinism has been expressed in a Government decision to put designs for new buildings out for competition by consultants not only to find the most suitable design but also taking the fees into consideration. Contracts between a consultant and a ministry now have to be approved both by the ministry concerned and separately by the Ministry of Finance.

Civil contractors working in Oman also have to come terms with the stated aim of the five-year plan to reduce the quantity of imported construction materials by expanding import substitution industries such as cement. To this end the Government has gone into a joint venture with the private sector to build a cement factory.

Overall it is the aim of the five-year plan to reduce the share of construction and building in gross domestic product from \$8m rials in 1976 to 4.9m rials in 1980. Most building contractors—and there were 795 registered contracting firms at the end of 1976—believe there is more development of ancillary structures which could take place, particularly in the south. Much will depend on the hopes of increased oil revenue and diversification of the economy into minerals and the market food production.

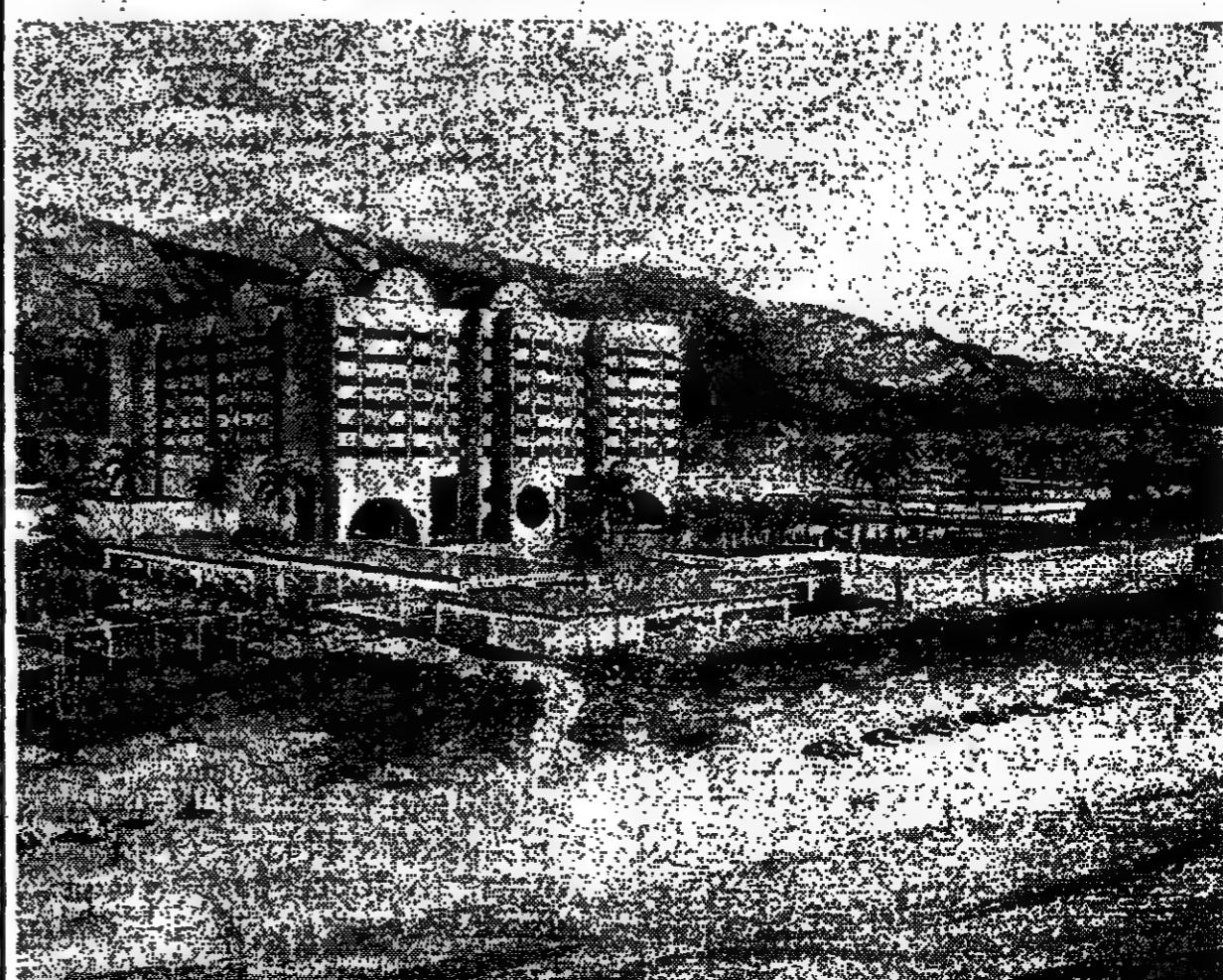
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FOCUS ON

DHOFAR AND MUSCAT

Cubans are given their marching orders

by Christopher Walker

Three years ago, the remote Dhofari village of Rakhyur served as the temporary headquarters of the Cuban-backed guerrillas who made up the revolutionary Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman. Today the area is firmly back in the hands of the Sultan's army; a new school stands recently from the rubble of flat-roofed houses which straggle along the shore of the Indian Ocean, and work is due to begin soon on a police station, the first to be constructed in the wild semi-desert area which has endured a long history of tribal anarchy.

The transformation of Rakhyur is an accurate reflection of the changes which have taken place elsewhere in Dhofar, the previously undeveloped southern region of Oman since the palace coup which brought Sultan Qaboos bin Said to power in July 1970. The pace of improvement is still restrained by severe climatic and logistical difficulties, but it has increased noticeably since fighting in the 10-year-old "secret war" ended in December 1975.

The Government recog-

nized early that once the war was won, there would still be a long and expensive struggle ahead to win the "peace", one senior British officer on loan to the Sultan's army explained.

A positive indication of the relaxation in the security situation is the decision to stage this year's elaborate National Day celebrations in Salalah, the southern capital, rather than the traditional venue of Muscat, 500 miles to the north. Foreign diplomats, who had moved as a sign of the Sultan's determination to unite his country in a way never attempted previously, are now more difficult by the lack of racial or tribal bonds between many of the estimated 100,000 Dhofaris and other Omanis.

Geographically, Dhofar covers an area the size of Wales, 38,000 sq miles of country which ranges from the tall, scrub-covered wadis stretching inland for about 20 km. Water remains the key to life in such a barren corner of the globe, and much of the Government's policy has been geared towards improving

and extending the 4,000 or so cultivated acres on the plain, without damaging the natural resources which have permitted their survival.

Since 1974, the Omanis authorities and their many British advisers in Dhofar have been waging one of the most successful hearts and minds campaigns seen in the aftermath of fighting against extreme left-wing forces. Based loosely around the construction of 20 habitation centres in the Jebel, the central aim has been to woo the mountain tribes away from any support for Marxist by providing them with adequate material and spiritual necessities for the first time in their lives.

When completed, most of the isolated centres will be linked by some form of road network and will contain a school, health centre, fixed-price shop, well and a mosque. The last is described by one official as a visible sign of anti-communism.

The entire programme was originally under the control of the Civil Aid Department

supervised by a former British army major, Mr Martin Robb. But in recent months as an increasing air of normality has returned to a region for which guerrilla warfare had become a way of life, sections are being transferred to the ordinary government bodies. On September 1 responsibility for the pioneering rural health service was handed over to the Ministry of Health and a parallel transfer of the Jebel schools to the Education Ministry will take place soon.

Alongside this extensive development programme, which has resulted in Dhofar being earmarked for 27 per cent of the expenditure in the five-year plan, activities in the military field are now concentrated on ensuring the long-term loyalty of the Firqats, a form of tribal home guard established as a buffer against any renewal of communist activity in the Jebel. It now numbers 3,100 men, more than half of whom are former PFLP members who have been tempted to defect by an amnesty combined with considerable cash inducements.

Although the total number of Firqats is small, their role in preventing revival of PFLP activity is regarded as crucial by their British military commander. As well as being paid a healthy monthly wage of £150, they are also provided with Belgian FN rifles and paid individual sums which have occasionally run into thousands of pounds for information leading to the discovery of enemy arms dumps.

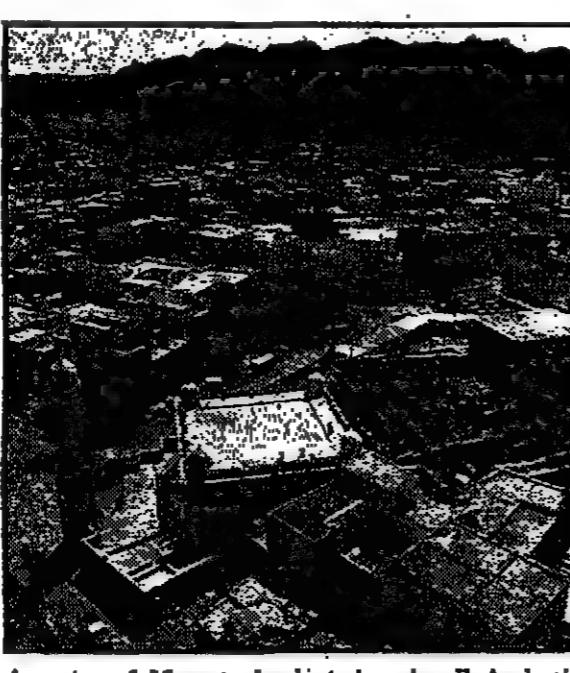
The purchase of loyalty has a long tradition in the Dhofar region, historically renowned for its vicious blood feuds and bloody inter-tribal disputes for control of the now defunct frankincense trade. Under the Sultan's guidance, the traditional methods are being accompanied by an imaginative development programme and intensive training in counter-terrorist techniques by members of the Special Air Service Regiment. Their chances of success and those of the whole region should be considerably assisted by last month's announcement that a \$300m oil drilling programme in Dhofar will begin next January.

A touch of The Turk and influential ladies

"There was a little of Jerusalem to its mystique, a little of Charleston, just a touch of the back streets of Oxford, a trace of one of those little fishing ports on the Gulf of Venice—and the white-walled and illuminated by an overpowering sense of the old Arabia, compounded of simple lattice windows and hidden influential ladies."

That was how the walled Oman model of Muscat was struck James Morris, distinguished foreign Middle East Correspondent of The Sunday Times, in 1956. Since then the sultana has undergone a remarkable social and economic upheaval which has amounted to a transformation from a medieval to modern state, yet thankfully many of the city's picturesque characteristics have survived the inevitable bulldozers. One reason has been a deliberate policy in recent years to redirect all development inland to the sprawling and undistinguished new towns of Khuwai.

In the past many a seafaring traveler has commented on the two most dominant aspects of Muscat: its blistering summer heat and its facility for imparting an immediate sense of history. As early as 1442, it was accurately described as one of the hottest places on earth by a Persian visitor who reported that the gams



A sector of Muscat, dominated as in all Arab cities by a mosque.

after sunset each evening to ward residents that the iron-clad gates of the city were about to be shut. The practice was one of many smacking of the Middle Ages ordered by the old Sultan, who also insisted that anyone walking after dark inside the walls had to carry a lighted lantern.

An unusual feature of Muscat's natural harbour has been created by the long-standing custom of visiting foreign vessels to inscribe their names in giant letters on the sheer rock walls which protect the anchorage. Legend and the previous Sultan, Said bin Taimur, both had it that Nelson was one of the first sailors to take part in one of the hazardous painting parties when he was still a midshipman.

Today, names like HMS Crocus and HMS Falmouth are still clearly visible on the rockface, although other contributions to this evocative form of naval graffiti have been obliterated by time and the sun. The sultanate's recent emergence into the twentieth century has done nothing to diminish the practice, no doubt to the chagrin of the racing who still have to wield the brushes and whitewash.

Apart from the Sultan's new palace, complete with gushing fountains and laboriously cultivated rose gardens, the British Embassy is the only other residential building in Muscat with direct access to the seafront. Heavy with the atmosphere of Graham Greene, the courtyard was the scene in 1965 of the last occasion when a slave was given his freedom, or manumitted, by the British authorities under a nineteenth century treaty. Although slavery had already been abolished, the man insisted that he was not free, so we gave him the necessary certificate, the diplomat involved explained.

In the narrow, dusty streets which surround the high embassy walls, Indian, African and Portuguese influences are constantly to be discovered blending with the Arab dress and customs of the native Omanis. It is this combination which still provides modern Muscat with a cosmopolitan character quite distinct from that to be found in any of the other Gulf capitals.

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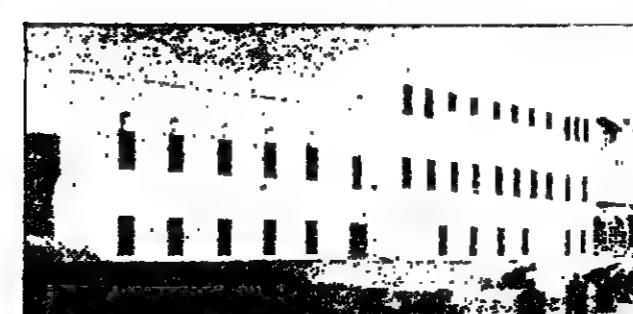
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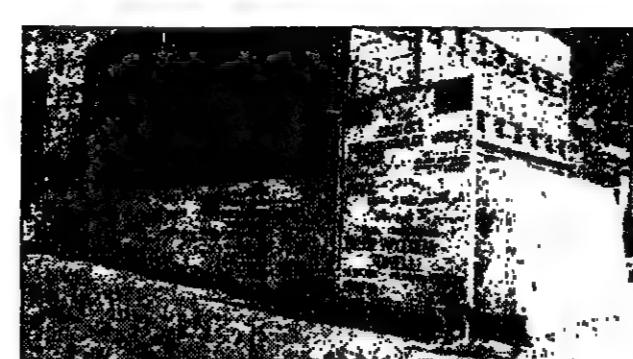
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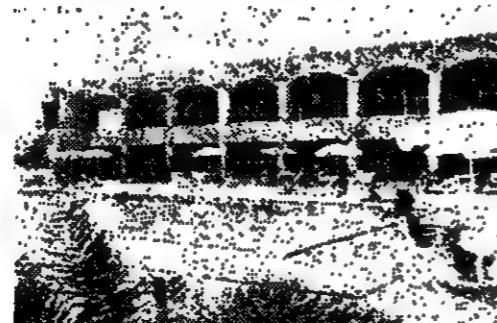
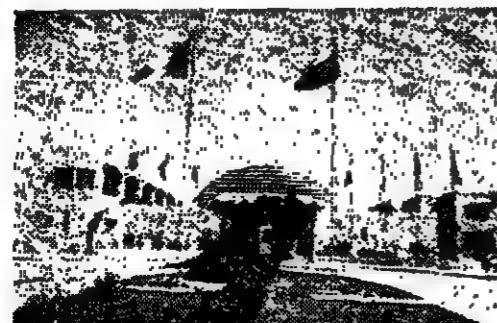
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FOCUS ON

FACTS AND FIGURES

Research on this and the facing page is by the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) consultants

Religion: cultural diversity in varied landscape

In the absence of any cities including Sohar, Sib, Marrah, Muscat and Sur, the total is uncertain, with estimates extending from 750,000 to 1,500,000. Whatever the exact figure, the inhabitants display a great ethnic and cultural diversity determined above all by the country's varied geography.

The largest category, probably accounting for almost two thirds of the population, are urban dwelling concentrated in the string of coastal

former tribal divisions. Unlike the coastal inhabitants who tend to be Sunni or Shi'a, they are invariably followers of the austere Ibadi sect and earn their livelihood from handicrafts in the main towns—Nizwa, Rostaq and Ibrī—or from cultivation on terraced mountainsides.

The 25,000 Bedouin who inhabit the 600-mile wide desert plain between the Hajar and Dhofar also practise a strictly orthodox form of Islamic faith, are firmly rooted in tribal structures and follow the traditional

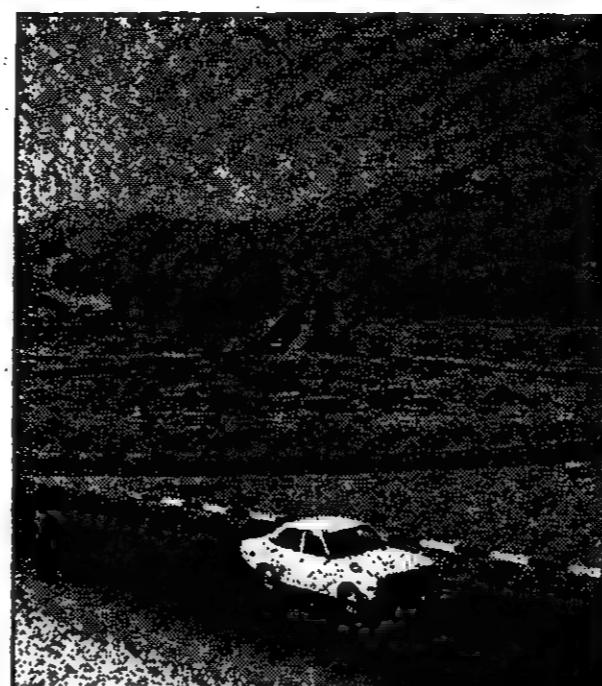
occupation of herding goats, sheep and the prized Omani camels.

Isolated from the rest of the country are the 35,000 Dhofaris in the south-west, who are geographically as well as culturally distinct from the rest of the country. Many are Hamitic rather than Semitic and, although bound by the common abominaries of Islam, speak a variety of languages. And in the Salalah area, an added ingredient is Negro stock from East Africa.

Because of the dominance

of the Ibadi sect, one of the earliest forms of Islam, the Islamic character of the accompanied Sultan Qaboos's modernization programmes. The capital, Muscat, and its twin city Matrah, probably have a combined population of 50,000 to 70,000 compared with 20,000 in 1968. The other coastal cities—such as Sohar and Sur—have grown almost as quickly. Salalah, the base of operations against the Dhofar rebels as well as the only port capable of serving southern Oman, is also being transformed.

Benefits follow roads



A dual carriageway in Ruwi Valley. Roadbuilding has been important to the country's unification.

construction in the south has done much to bring modern heating, shopping and schooling to the geographically isolated and much embattled tribes of the Dhofar region. The only main road existing is in 1970, joining the towns of Thamrait and Salalah, was repeatedly cut by rebels but has now been remake, resurfaced and extended.

It is in the credit of the Government of Oman that so much has been completed in such a short time. Asphalt roads running for 1,250 miles and 2,800 miles of graded roads were opened in 1976, but even so the rate of growth has barely kept pace with the demand for motorised transport. There were about 840 road vehicles registered in Oman at the end of 1970, but by 1976 the number had risen to 30,000. A total of 5,673 cars and 7,205 trucks and buses were imported last year alone, and the resulting pressure on the Government for improvements and extensions to the existing network is unlikely to diminish over the next few years.

As recently as last June, Oman received a \$16.5m loan from the World Bank which will provide a substantial proportion of the sum required to implement a comprehensive training programme for road workers on all aspects of the improvement efficiency of the network which the Omanis take very seriously. Finance is also being sought from Saudi Arabia for the building of a further 85 miles of hard-surfaced roads around Dhofar. British consultants who have recently submitted an interim report on the feasibility study for the project estimate that the work will cost more than \$74m, and work will include the building of 16 administrative and social centres.

With spending between

1971 and 1975 reaching well over 100m rials (\$368.7m) and the Ministry of Communications taking 13 per cent of the 1976-77 expenditure budget, transport schemes such as this have probably had the greatest economic and social impact of any project launched in Oman's renaissance.

Geography

Curved across the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula and covering 107,000 square miles, Oman presents little geographic singularity. Most of the 1,500,000 inhabitants live in the fertile Barisan coast along the Gulf of Oman. The coast is cut off from the interior by the rugged Hajar and Jabal Akhdar mountains which reach about 10,000ft.

The interior is mainly inhabited by Bedouin and includes large areas of shifting sand in the south, extensive areas of arid plains and the relatively fertile Dhofar plain, which edges into a mountainous zone at the South Yemen border. In addition to Masira island off the south-east coast, there is also an enclave on the tip of Ras Misqadun peninsula, cut off from the rest of Oman by the United Arab Emirates.

Cereals, dates, pomegranates and limes are grown on the Barisan coast, the Dhofar plain and on terraced mountain sides around Nizwa in the Jabal Akhdar, and cattle breeding is carried on extensively in Dhofar. With the exception of Dhofar, which catches the summer monsoons, most agriculture depends on the traditional system of underground water channels.

The climate is equally varied. In Muscat average maximum temperatures are about 41°C with 44 per cent humidity; the highest daily average temperatures in August in Salalah are only 30°C b with slightly higher levels of humidity. Rain, which usually falls in the summer in the south-east, adds in winter in the north-west, can be surprisingly heavy and averages 700mm in Muscat.

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Arab Bank	4
Habib Bank, Zurich	3
Bank of Credit & Commerce International	11
Bank of Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait	3 (L)
Bank Mellat Iran	3
Citibank	2
Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas	1
Arab African Bank	1
Al Bank Al Ahli al Oman	1 (L)
Bank of Baroda	1
Union Bank of Oman	1 (L)
National Bank of Abu Dhabi	1
Commercial Bank of Oman	5 (L)
Bank Saderat Iran	1
Bank of Oman and The Gulf (licensed)	1 (L)

(L)=locally incorporated

Source: Central Bank of Oman

Three-pronged power drive

The development of a water supply system to cater for residential, industrial and agricultural needs and the generation of enough electricity to meet peak demands is a problem which Oman planners and policy-makers have to face, as do those of other Gulf states.

The generation of electricity is often linked to the desalination of water in those countries because of the speed in which such technology can be established and Oman has not, as yet, been an exception.

ment Association, have lent money to the Government to finance the studies for the power and water development programme.

This may include constructing small dams to harness the heavy rainfall in the Hajar mountains. It is some are being converted to run on gas rather than fuel. Hawker Siddeley of the United Kingdom is still constructing 16 stations. Without doubt, however, when the present studies are completed development will progress speedily.



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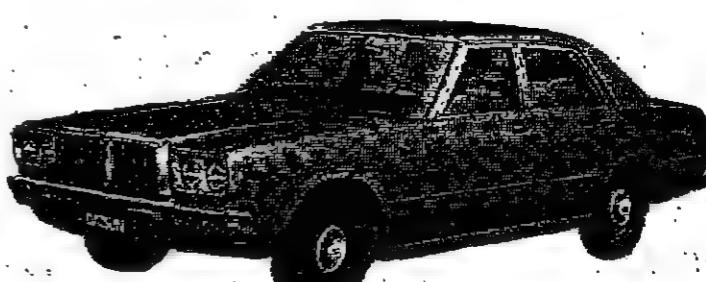
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Oil is one of the last 139 million barrels in 1976 off-shore Musandam. Elf's production of Middle East oil is 118 million barrels. While the oil sector is absolutely dominant, contributing 72.7 per cent of government revenues, oil reserves are small and its quality is extremely poor. Even now, to maintain the comparatively modest rate of production, massive amounts of steam and gas must be injected and unit costs are consequently the highest in the Middle East.

The largest producing area is Rasib, which averages 260,000 barrels a day or 74 per cent of Oman's total production. The capital, Muscat, is nearing the limit of exploration, and unless new fields are discovered and quickly brought on stream, production levels will fall from an estimated 70,000 in 1968. The oil cities—such as Salalah—have grown along with operations against the rebels as well as port capable of serving transformed.

Education and health

It is indicative of the greater social awareness of Sultan Qaboos that 5.4 per cent and 2 per cent of total government development expenditure in 1973-75 went on health and education respectively. Six years ago the country boasted only one hospital, run by American missionaries, and only about 10 schools educating fewer than 10,000 children. Now Oman has eight district hospitals in the capital area, 11 health centres and about 40 health dispensaries.

It also has 207 schools, of which 181 are primary, 23 are preparatory and three are secondary, educating 55,752 children. There are plans for future growth but the emphasis is now on quality rather than quantity. New school buildings have been cut back from last year's total of 65 to a projected average of 25.

There are two main problems associated with future growth. One is the prohibitive salaries of employing expatriate teachers and the second is raising the vocational nature of secondary education. Because of the severe social lack of education before 1970, the large workforce is illiterate or under-educated. About 85 per cent of the teachers in Oman come from other Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan and Sudan, but to get them to work in the country high salaries have to be offered.

The average salary is about 150 rials a month (with up to 50 rials extra

offered to teachers who agree to work in the remote areas). This salary is four times the average earnings of a teacher in Egypt and constitutes a high recurrent cost on government expenditure each year. Plans are therefore under consideration for three teacher-training colleges (which will offer places for 500 men students and 200 women students) of which the larger one will be financed 75 per cent by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

On health, future improvements will be concentrated on the provision of health centres and dispensaries. Some hospitals will be expanded. The number of centres will be increased from 11 to 26 over five years and the number of dispensaries will be increased to 80. The total of six land and sea mobile dispensaries which came into operation earlier this year, will be increased. All this is to exceed the sphere of health care to the remote areas which have not yet benefited sufficiently from the free health service.

The growth in the health sector is also struck by the lack of qualified nationals. Oman is fortunate to have a considerable leadership now, and to have oil revenue to pay for its development programmes. Omani plans are long-term and expensive and it is indicative of the shortage of skilled manpower that both the education and health sectors will be dependent on expatriate labour for many years.

Oil: production falling

Production is handled solely by Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) in which the Government has a 60 per cent share, Shell 35 per cent and Compagnie Francaise des Petroles 5 per cent. PDO, 12,000 ft and exploitation in addition to its operating fields at Fahud and Ghobta, has also been awarded the east Dhofar concession and plans to spend \$200m on exploiting new discoveries which suggest reserves capable of providing at least 30,000 barrels a day.

Other concessions have been granted to Sun Oil for an offshore area near Masirah Island, a French-Japanese consortium Elf-Suntory, for the northwest, Wintershall of West Germany off the Bahrain coast and Elf-Aquitaine for

1974, Oman has also earned increasing amounts from direct sales which, with a recent agreement with Gulf Oil and C Itoh, has risen from 5,800,000 barrels in 1974 to 29 million in 1976. Reserves of associated and unassociated gas are small—about 40 million cu ft—and are insufficient for Oman's tentative long-term plans for petrochemical and fertilizer industries. But plans have gone ahead for the laying of 300 km pipeline from the Yibal fields to Ghubra near Muscat and the gas will probably be used to run a desalination plant and a cement factory.

The discovery of non-oil mineral resources has substantially brightened the obscured horizon. Proved recoverable reserves total about 18 million tons with good hopes for more. Exploitation began in 1977 and a 3,000 tons a day copper smelter will be built at Sobar. The entire development depends on the building of services, especially roads and ports. There are also substantial deposits of limestone which will be used in the new cement factory at Qurum, asbestos in Sobar, manganese near Sur, marble in the Hajar and phosphates in Dhofer.

Large coal deposits, estimated at 10 million tons,

have also been discovered in the mountains above Sur but

development depends on the

building of services, espe-

cially roads and ports. There

are also substantial deposits

of limestone which will be

used in the new cement fac-

tory at Qurum, asbestos in

Sobar, manganese near Sur,

marble in the Hajar and

phosphates in Dhofer.

Oil 1973 1974 1975 1976

	Production (million barrels)	107.0	105.9	124.5	133.8
	Exports (million barrels)	106.9	105.8	124.4	133.7
Japan (%)	(35.5)	(35.4)	(37.5)		
Netherlands (%)	(8.1)	(1.6)	(20.5)		
Trinidad (%)	—	(3.6)	(7.4)		
France (%)	(17.4)	(12.0)	(6.9)		
Britain (%)	(4.5)	(5.4)	(6.6)		
Singapore (%)	(6.3)	(0.8)	(5.9)		
Revenues (\$m)	173.3	84.0	107.0	136.0	

Telecommunications

The continuing demand for radio, telex and telephone equipment in Oman has made one of the few sectors of the communications industry in which the pace of development has not slackened since the start of Sultan Qaboos's reign. Some 3,000 telephones are being installed annually throughout the country, and links now exist in all but the remotest areas of Oman. The installation of modern switch systems at exchanges in Muscat, Matrah and Salalah has made direct dialling possible between the chief towns and cities, where previously links between Salalah's 550 lines and the north were by radio channels only.

Until 1975, international connections relied solely on a 24-circuit booster station at Wattiyah, which relayed calls via high frequency radio channels through Bahrain to other countries. But today, with the aid of a new 60-circuit earth satellite station in the Hajar mountains, which was built by an Italian company and commissioned in November, 1975, Oman is linked by direct calling to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar.

The pace of development has been much hastened since 1976, when the Government set up a company, Omanair, to run the new telephone system, which by that time had a capacity of some 16,000 lines. Omanair is 40 per cent Government owned, and the remaining 60 per cent of the equity is held by Cable & Wireless of the United Kingdom, which was originally engaged in operating the restricted Muscat-Masrah service in the early 1970s.

Air and sea ports

Before the accession of Sultan Qaboos, Oman had one solitary air strip at Bair al Falaj, capable of accommodating only light aircraft. Work began in 1971 on an international airport 28 miles from Muscat, near Sib. The initial work on the runway was completed in 1972 and the following year it was extended and improved to handle even supersonic aircraft. At the same time the passenger and cargo terminals were opened, enabling more than 170,000 passengers and 17,000 tonnes of cargo to be handled by 1976.

With the acquisition by the Oman Government of a 25 per cent stake in Gulf Air, connections with other Middle East capitals improved dramatically. The air strip at Salalah, once used as a military base only, was upgraded with installation of modern equipment and improved runways to handle the high load in terms of jet aircraft. The project, making Salalah Oman's second international airport, was estimated at 15m rials and was awarded to Joannou & Paraskevalides of Cyprus.

From Sib and Salalah air services are now running to a total of six small airfields within the country, at Sur, Hassab, Sobar, Nizwa, Buraimi and Thamrait. Most of these are still in need of buildings and rather more advanced landing systems, but with the achievements of Sib and Salalah behind it, the Government no longer considers the improvement of its air services to be high on its list of priorities.

But even more remarkable has been the metamorphosis of Oman's shipping links. A far cry from the time-consuming process of off-loading cargo onto well-laden barges in the deep waters outside Muscat, the new harbour at Mistrah, built at a cost of \$40m and opened in 1974, handled 556,000 tonnes in its first year of operation, and the figure had risen to 1,200,000 tons a year by 1976.

The purchase of modern cargo handling equipment and extensive work on warehousing facilities has now raised the annual capacity of Mina Qaboos to 1,500,000 tonnes. Today it has 10 deep water berths including limited container service scheduled for expansion to three coaster berths and a monthly roll-on, roll-off service to Shorashir in the United Kingdom, operated by James Clover. Craneage capacity has reached 150 tonnes and the Government is considering buying a \$2.4m container crane.

A new port at Rayut has fast become the port for the whole of the Dhofer region since its completion in 1973. Just 154 ships offloaded a total of 223,000 tonnes of cargo in 1976, and the prospect of increased oil exports from the region soon has led to the preparation of detailed feasibility studies on the construction and equipment required. The most recent project in connexion with Rayut's development is the construction of new berths near to Salalah to accommodate tankers up to 45,000 tons. Completion is expected in the mid-1980s.

A Matrah fisherman throws his outboard motor fuel into his boat. In the background is Mina Qaboos.

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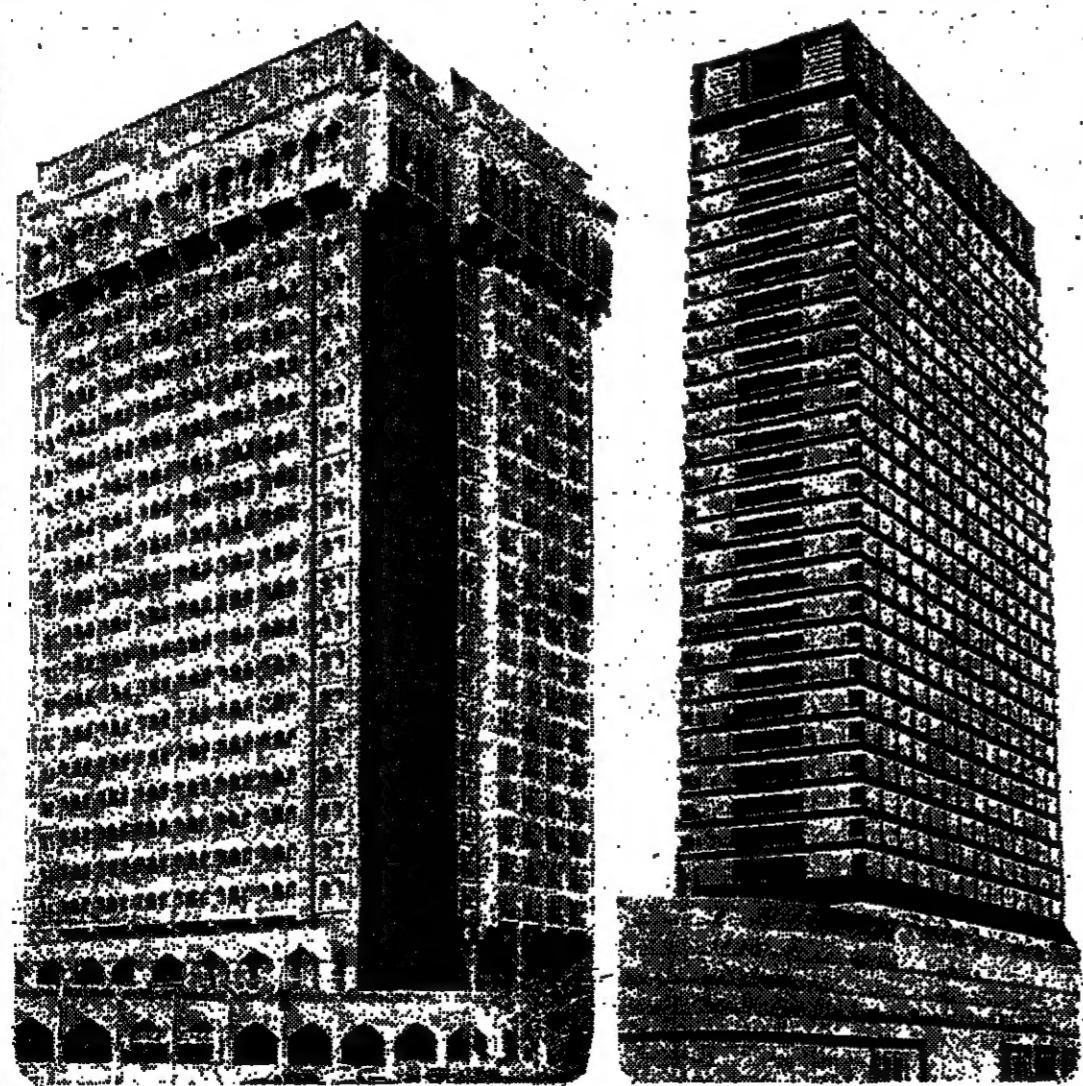
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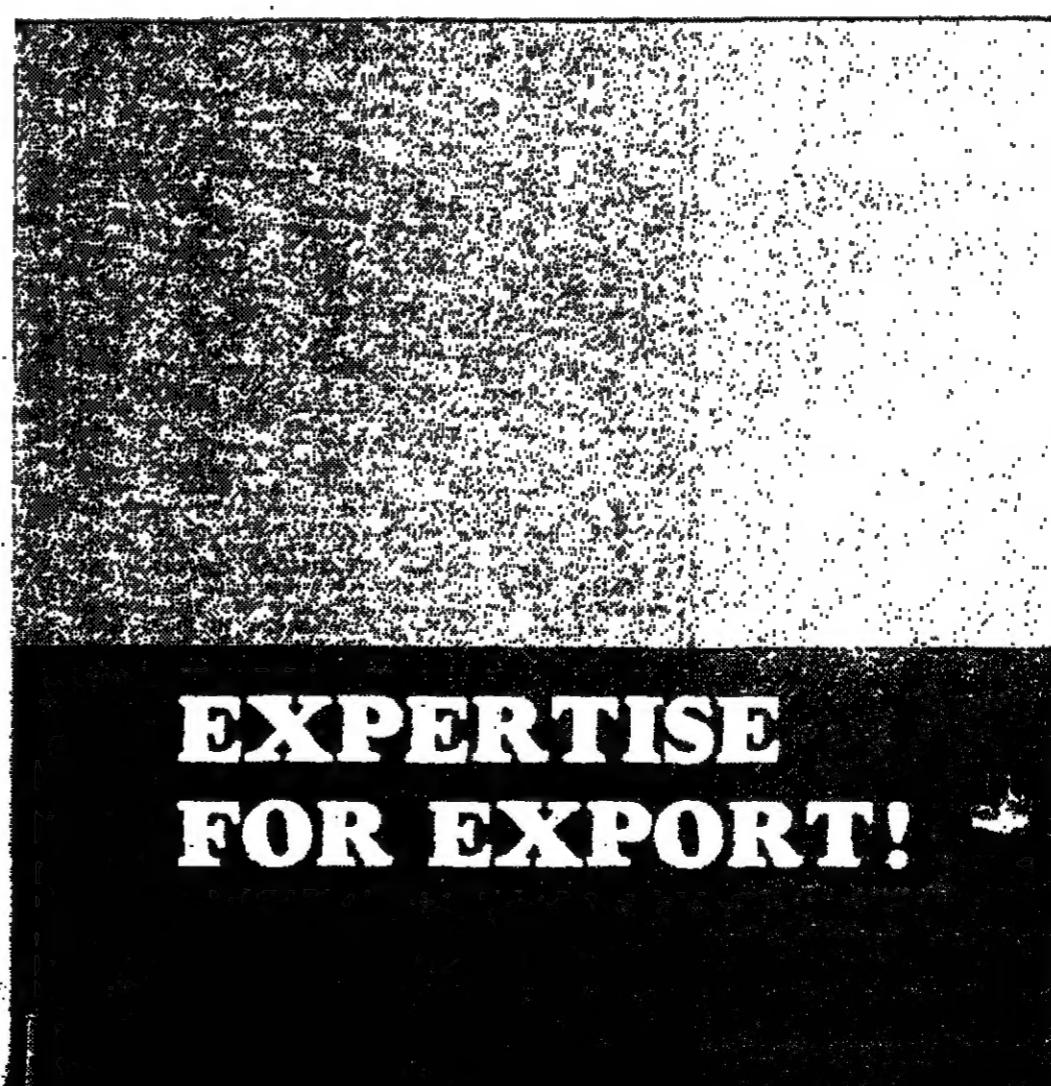
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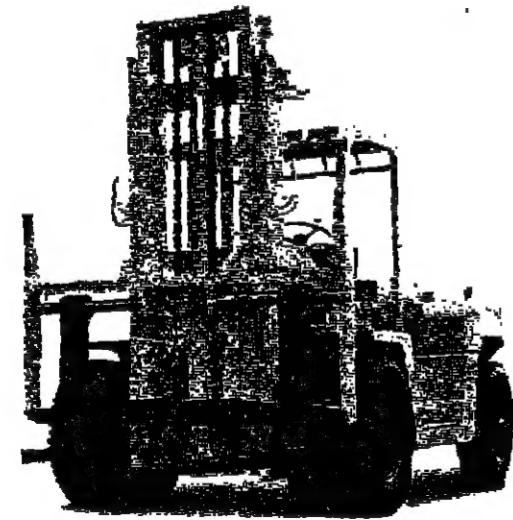
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FOCUS ON

WILDLIFE AND YOUTH TRAINING

Wealth of species in danger

by Norma Ashworth

Oman was once not only more fertile than most of Arabia but also richly inhabited by wildlife. The depredations of man and the progressive desiccation of the climate took some centuries to affect both to a profound degree; it is hoped that the last quarter of the twentieth century will find the perfect balance.

A return to fertility has already begun and there is the certainty that with re-afforestation and increasing agriculture, man's needs will be well served long before this century ends. What is perhaps more urgent to view

of the speed of development in the sultanate is the safeguarding of the wild environment. For some species of animal, it is known to be too late to find them in their natural habitat; others long out of sight are believed to have retreated from hunting parties and kept a precarious existence where man finds it difficult to penetrate.

Both to search for and resettle native creatures will take a long time. The number of factors to be considered are labyrinthine and require patient study before Oman can feel content that protection, replenishment and development are in harmony.

An adviser on the preservation and development of

the environment to report directly to the Sultan was appointed three years ago. Mr Ralph Daly has been made responsible for the delicate task of balancing the rights and needs of the people against a study that beckons the world's experts in the natural sciences. After three years there is considerable progress and still no territorial conflict.

The first general report on Oman's zoological and botanical specimens has been produced this year compiled from the Flora and Fauna Survey of 1975. It will soon have the results of a special Dhofar survey added when the reports of this year's expeditions in the Southern Province are complete.

The compilation of Oman data has given all experts the same problems: imprecisely-labelled specimens as rare as the travellers who collected them, found with great difficulty in random collections. The most reliable records of natural history in Arabic generally contain inconsistent references to Oman and only the amateur diarists of the last century, together with the explorers of recent decades, have provided useful observations.

Bird and marine life is probably the best documented as regards the enumeration of species; the white oryx and Arabian tahr are well known of the Oman mammals because of their lamentable near-extinction.

Within the past two decades hunting parties from bordering lands can be blamed for wiping out the oryx in slaughter by machine-guns from Land-Rovers. Their reintroduction from captive breeding herds (in Kenya, Arizona and Jordan) is being delayed until their future protection in the wild can be assured.

Legislation already exists to protect all types of gazelle, white oryx, ibex and hare and the cooperation of tribesmen in the former hunting grounds is being sought.

The Barbary ibex had once been totally protected but once accurate counts have been made, the persecuted species are expected to be added to the list.

Only 20 years ago the explorer Wilfred Thesiger was able to list sightings of huge wild herds of gazelle and oryx and in the Central and Southern Regions he saw wolves, striped hyenas, leopards, wildcats, panthers and an innumerable variety of rodents and amphibians.

The birds of Arabia in general were already known but it is only during the past few years that Oman has been found to be a principal migration path.

The northern numbers to Africa. Native and exotic are increasing year by year as the vegetation and areas of water holes are increased.

Natural sense of balance

by Paul Munton

When rain falls on Oman, the people say, "Allah kareem" (Allah is generous), for rain is recognized as a seminal gift and not as something that may be taken for granted.

The country is fortunate that in a time of rapid industrial and urban development this attitude of respect is being extended to all the natural riches and beauties with which it is endowed.

The sultanate has a plentiful and diverse flora and fauna, much of it peculiar to Oman, which belies the outsider's view of the country as a desert with spring-based oases. The riches of Oman extend from the mountains to the plains,

and along the coasts into the coral sea.

As Oman continues its development into a modern state, the Sultan has shown great awareness of the need to understand the ecological relationships that sustain and bind the natural life of the country and to take action to conserve or preserve where and when it is necessary. This understanding recognizes the compatibility of development and conservation and appreciates that, with wisdom, the benefits of modern technology and the ancient riches of the natural world may be combined to give a country and its people sustained wealth and strength.

This awareness originally manifested itself in the setting up of an office in Muscat as part of the Ministry of Diwan Affairs, which was concerned solely with advising on the conservation, preservation and development of the environment. Work started with a programme for the survey and identification of the flora and fauna of Oman, which were little known.

In 1975 an expedition collected and identified the animals and plants from two important Jebel areas in the north of Oman. The report of this expedition has just been published and reveals that northern Oman has a unique flora and fauna which has some aspects suggesting that it is a relic from a past age. This year the south of the country, Dhofar, is being surveyed in the same way and this has been an exciting undertaking.

Besides this work two long-term projects are under way, both sponsored jointly by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources together with the World Wildlife Fund, with the Oman Government providing half the funds.

One of the studies is the peculiarly Omani—the study of the Arabian tahr, a sort of goat unique to the north of Oman. The other has international implications. This is the study of the turtles that use the beaches of Oman, especially Masirah, Long-headed turtles, Olive Ridley, hawksbill and green turtles all nest on the island. The adults range widely over the oceans, and this work is intended to help the international effort to conserve the turtle and its habitats all over the world.

With the development of the secondary school curriculum still continuing, the opportunity is being taken to introduce sound ecological ideas into biological science teaching.

Dr Munton is director of a joint World Wildlife Fund conservation project in Oman.

Wise use of grazing land by Beduin may be especially

relevant for the survival of the Arabian tahr. This was the subject of the first of two WWF and IUCN joint projects to get under way in the sultanate. It is directed at the impenetrable areas of the north of Oman and its main answer is likely to come from an understanding of the nature of the interaction between domestic livestock, the intermittent rainfall, the growth of the mountain vegetation and the needs of the Arabian tahr. The result of this project should be as beneficial to domestic stock as to the tahr, since the two appear to have co-existed in the mountains for many centuries.

Other important wildlife projects are planned. The jewel in the crown of Oman's conservation may be the re-establishment of the white oryx in the inland desert fringes which was their last known refuge in the wild. Stocks of the animals are held in several zoos in different countries and it may be possible to acquire some of these to use as a nucleus for a breeding herd to be reintroduced to the wild.

This would also be of direct benefit to the Harasis tribe of the area (which was not responsible for the demise of the white oryx). It was exterminated by ex-patriates crossing the border in trucks and machine-guns, leaving the herds out of existence. The Harasis have jealously guarded the Arabian gazelle from exploitation by other tribes.

It is hoped that their area is now die-hard and that Oman, where this species also exists in World Wildlife Fund red book of endangered species) is still abundant.

It may be possible to persuade the Harasis to become as jealous of the well-being of reintroduced oryx. The other important work going on in Oman concerns education, especially of the young people of Oman so that they stand some chance of avoiding the costly mistakes that have marked the advance of technological applications in many countries in the recent and not so recent past.

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It makes both an agreeable launching symbol of a new ministry (formed by royal decree in April 1976) and a happier return for a ship named after obscure Captain Scott.

The Captain Scott was built in 1913 for the Duthie-Lyon Trust and intended for the introduction of longer and younger training courses than those run in the two earlier sail training vessels.

—Winston Churchill and Malcolm Miller.

When the trust ran into difficulties, principally over industrial concerns' reluctance to lose labour time for so long and rigorous a course, the ship went on the market. Even the introduction of modified courses and a period of charter to Oceans, a United States organization which ran educational cruises in the Mediterranean, failed to keep the Captain Scott employed.

Rescue came when the Sultan approved the purchase this year and plans were made immediately to begin the National Day voyage in early September.

The trip has met with some difficulties, including a broken mast after leaving Gibraltar and necessitating an unscheduled call at Palma for repairs.

There have been port delays at Malta and on the East African coast but the ship was

expected to make a spectacular appearance on the southern coast of Oman this morning.

Although the Ministry for Youth Affairs was not set up until last year, the groundwork had already been laid through the Ministries of Social Affairs and Labour and Education, which are still linked with projects covering training and recreation. In establishing youth clubs, Oman was following the example of other Arab countries but

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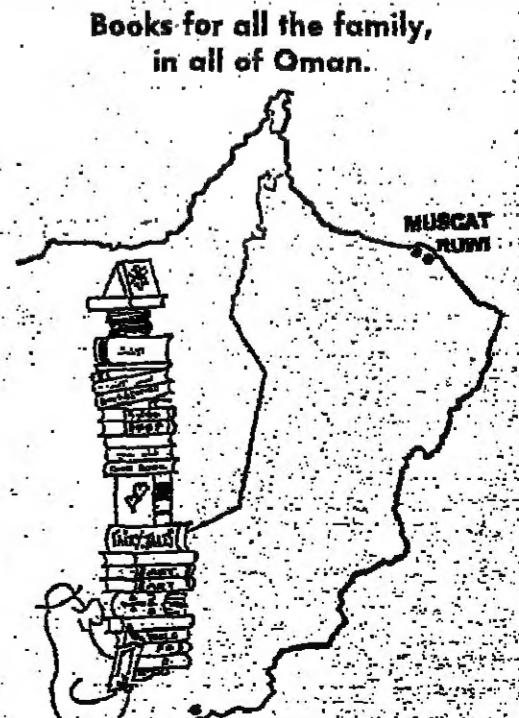
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FOCUS ON

COMMUNICATIONS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Quick flights replace camel trains

by Christopher Walker

No part of Oman's national life suffered more from the determination of the previous Sultan to shut out the benefit from the oil boom. Built by the Cypriot contractors of Joannou and Paraskevaidis, the runway

was completed in 1972, and a year later the terminal buildings were opened.

For pilots and passengers alike the inauguration brought much relief, as previous incoming flights had had to include a hair-raising descent over the jagged mountains which surrounded the only airport, at Beita-al-Falaj. Now the latter has been turned into a new town, and on holidays bizarre cricket matches between teams of Indian and Pakistani expatriates take place on the remaining airfield.

During 1976 Sib averaged a monthly total of 3,000 aircraft movements and received 172,000 incoming passengers. The percentage of arrivals has increased substantially during the first six months of this year, but the incidence of delays caused by local factors remains small. One reason is the almost perfect

weather conditions. Dust either at the country's main airport at Sib, a sensible 30km from the capital, Muscat, began even before the Government of Sultan Qaboos had reaped the full benefit from the oil boom.

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Plans are now in hand for an extension to the runway at Sib, improved electrical generating capacity and further extensions to terminal buildings. In Dhofar, improvements to the port at Salalah have recently been completed as part of a \$6m industrial project which has given the airport international status for the first time.

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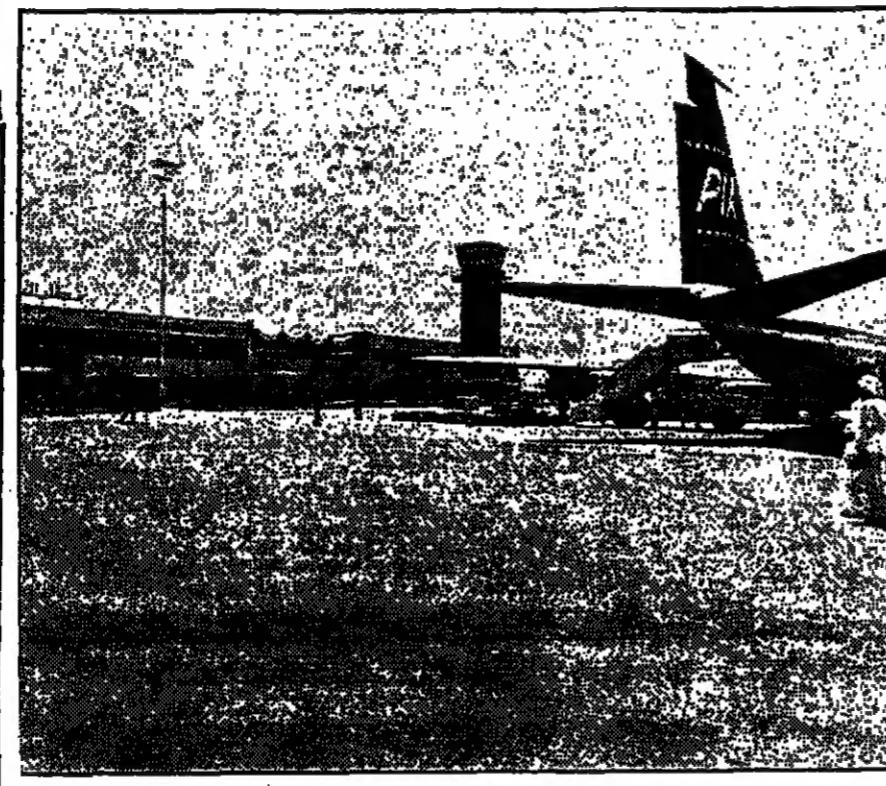
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Sib international airport. Its sitting cut out hair-raising descents.

Lines are always busy

by John Whelan

and Muscat. Now it extends through the Ruwi Valley to Sib and up the Barkash Coast to Khemas al Malah on the northern border with Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates. The rural exchanges extend west to Buraimi and south from Buraimi to Ibra. The eastern triangle of the country around Sur is also serviced.

Salalah was until the middle of this month linked to the north by radio but as

from National Day Oman

is not a private company and

is therefore working within

the constraints of budget

and in particular the

structure on spending laid

down by the five-year plan.

According to government

statistics there were 6,649

telephone lines at the end of

1976. By the beginning of

this month the number had

risen to 15,950 which is close

to the 16,000 ceiling to be

installed under present contracts.

Most of the contract

ing work so far has been

done by L. M. Ericsson, of

Sweden, which is among the

parties interested in a 7,000-

line extension to the capital

in the capital and Salalah.

Oman is now evaluating

bids for the contract and ex-

pects this to get going in the

new year.

Specifications are also

being prepared for an exten-

sion of the telecommunications

which at present comprises

335 outlets in the capital and

Salalah put together.

The five-year plan allows

a total of 3m rials to be

spent on telephone develop-

ment in the capital area and

3.4m rials for

development in the interior

including the Musadum en-

clave which is not at present

joined to the telephone

network. This excludes

800,000 rials which has been

set aside for earth satellite

stations.

Oman's management is

60 per cent controlled by

the government and 40 per

cent by Cable & Wireless

but Noor Mohammad, gen-

eral manager of Omanet,

says the authority's capital

is 100 per cent government-

controlled. He reports as

general manager to the

Minister of Communications

and says that spending is

strictly in line with the plan.

Before Omanet was estab-

lished in August 1975 the

telephone network was run

dial numbers continuously

by Cable & Wireless but was

beginning to sound less and

less apocryphal.

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